42ND "RAINBOW" INFANTRY DIVISION

A COMBAT HISTORY OF WORLD WAR II





HEADQUARTERS
42D (RAINBOW) INFANTRY DIVISION

Office of the Commanding General

To the Men of the Rainbow Division:

This history of the Rainbow is a record of the accomplishments of every man who served in the Division. It is the story of his contribution to the safety and security of the people of his country and of the world.

It is a history made possible not by individual achievement, but by the combined effort of all. It is natural in such a history as this that the action of the front line soldier is emphasized. While he deserves every bit of credit that it is possible to give him, he realizes that he was able to fight and win only because he was a member of a great fighting team in which thousands of men united to defeat the enemy.

This, then, is a history of the combat infantry, of the artillery, the reconnaissance troop, the medical and engineer battalions, the signal, ordnance and quartermaster companies and of the division headquarters personnel.

It is the story of the Rainbow, and I am proud to have commanded its men in combat. I thank you for making this history possible—for a job well and bravely done.

Sincerely yours,

HARRY J. COLLINS
Major General, U. S. Army,
Commanding

Dedicated to Those Who Fought and Died With the 42nd Rainbow Division

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THE STORY OF THE RAINBOW

It was a hot, bright July day when the Rainbow Division, the most famous fighting organization of World War I, was reactivated at Camp Gruber, Oklahoma. The date was July 14, 1943. It was the 26th anniversary of the battle of Champagne and veterans of the Rainbow who had stopped the last great offensive of the Kaiser's army in that battle were on hand to see their unit reborn.

Here was history repeating itself. Once again there was a Rainbow Division in the army and this time, even more than before, it was a division which would represent all America, made up of men selected from each state of the Union in proportion to its population.

The first Rainbow Division was composed of National Guard units from 27 states and it was this collection of men which inspired General Douglas MacArthur, its most famous member, to declare.

"The 42nd Infantry Division stretches like a Rainbow from one end of America to the other."

Major General Harry J. Collins, then Brigadier General, recalled the words of General MacArthur on that activation day when he told the veterans of the old Rainbow and the cadremen of the new:

"The Rainbow stretches across the land and represents the people of our country. This Division cannot fail because America cannot fail."

The cadremen for the new Rainbow were for the most part regular army men who had been stationed in Hawaii and Newfoundland. They had spent a short time with the 102nd Infantry Division and had been augmented by some officers and men from that unit. They knew their business, but to brush up on fundamentals and teaching methods they attended schools until the first of the fillers began arriving in mid-August and then everyone went to work to build a 15,000-man fighting team.

Basic training began officially on October 4 and the Division received an overall rating of "very satisfactory" in the individual training tests which were conducted during the first week of January. The unit training period was begun on January 9, but shortly thereafter the entire Division training program was disrupted by repeated instructions that men qualified for overseas shipment be transferred to other units.

Most seriously affected by these transfers from the Division were the three infantry regiments, which shipped out more than 5,600 men in the period from the beginning of the Unit Training Program until the first week in April. During the months which followed more and more men were transferred from the Rainbow and they were replaced with men from army specialist training schools, from the air forces and from branches of the service other than infantry. Some of these replacements had no sooner been given short refresher courses in basic training than they too were transferred.

Although the infantry suffered the majority of the transfers, all units were affected and it was not until late in July that the Division was again able to begin an uninterrupted training program. During the period from early January to the first of September the Rainbow transferred out and received as replacements more than 15,000 men, a number equal to the strength of the Division.

In July the Division received assurances that it would not be called upon for more replacements. Instead, it was informed, it must begin an intensive training program which would prepare it for shipment overseas in 26 weeks. Everything must be completed in that time, basic training, unit and combined training, maneuvers, post-maneuver training and even packing and crating. This meant that what was normally a year to a year and a half's work must be done in six months.

The job was tremendous. Everything had to be shortened, condensed, speeded up. Individual training for the latest group of replacements was cut to six weeks. Unit training was reduced to the same period of time. All tests must be taken and all POM requirements must be completed. The Division was working night and day, on a seven-day week.

Then came a further change. Infantrymen were needed in Europe immediately. Twenty-six weeks was too long.



The first shot to be fired by the 42d Division Artillery in World War I is loaded in this gun of the 149th Field Artillery Regiment.



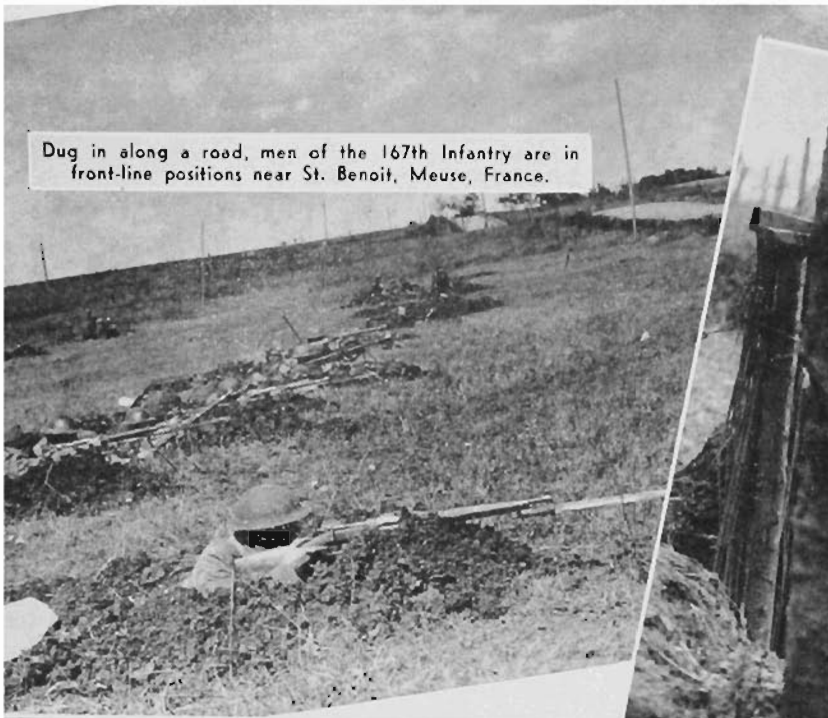
Loaded with bags of hand grenades, Frenchmen and Rainbowmen start a patrol into German-held territory near Badonviller, France.



These elaborate dugouts housed the Second Battalion, 168th Infantry Regiment, in its defensive position near Badonviller in April of 1918.

From a field kitchen in the rear, food is being carried to the front line trenches of the 1st Battalion, 165th Infantry, near Parverviller.





Dug in along a road, men of the 167th Infantry are in front-line positions near St. Benoit, Meuse, France.



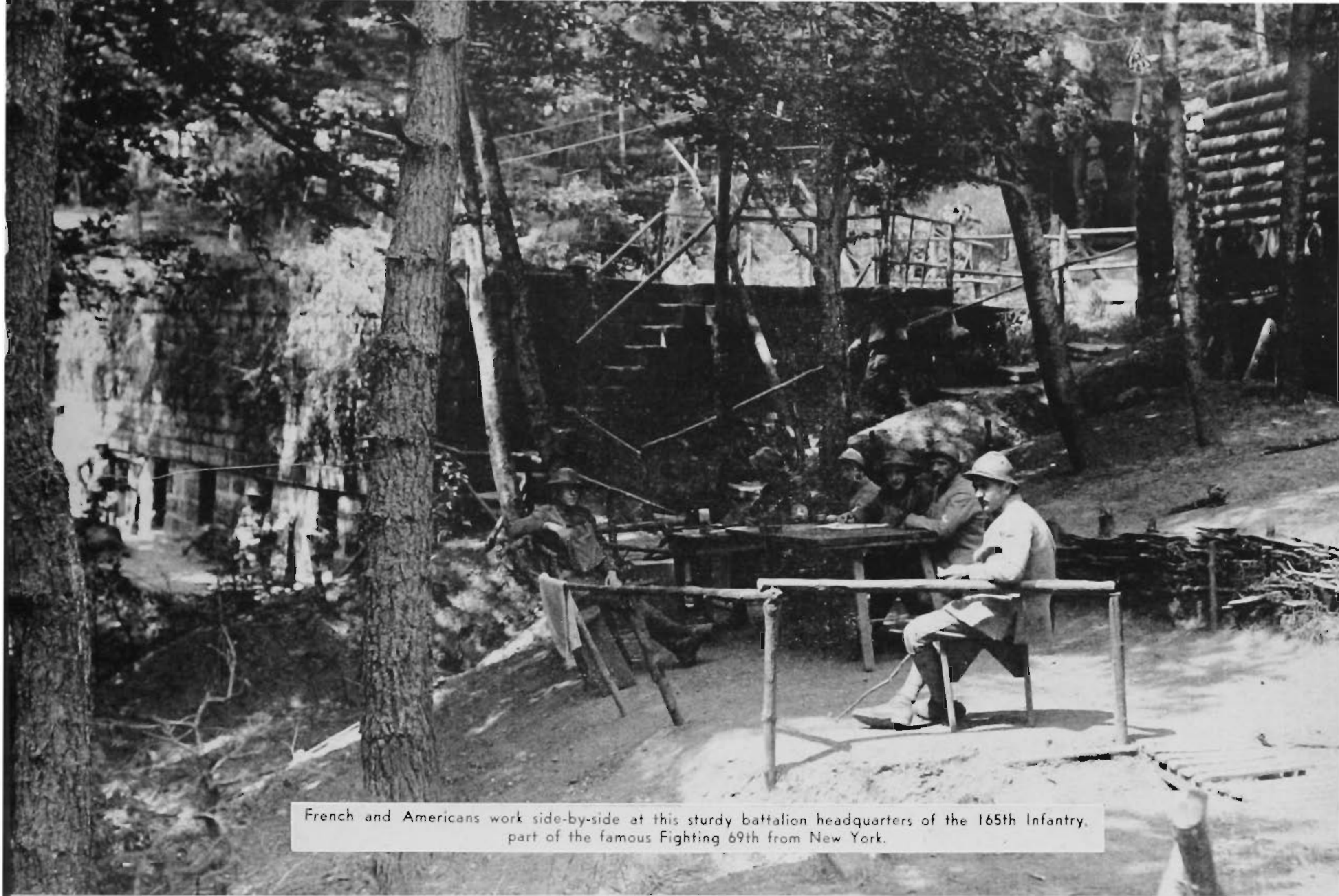
Pigeons are used at this CP of the 2d Battalion, 167th Infantry, to carry messages to the rear.



These 1918 style snipers are members of the Rainbow's 168th Infantry Regiment.



Company E, 168th Infantry, waits for artillery to lift before attacking in the Meuse area.

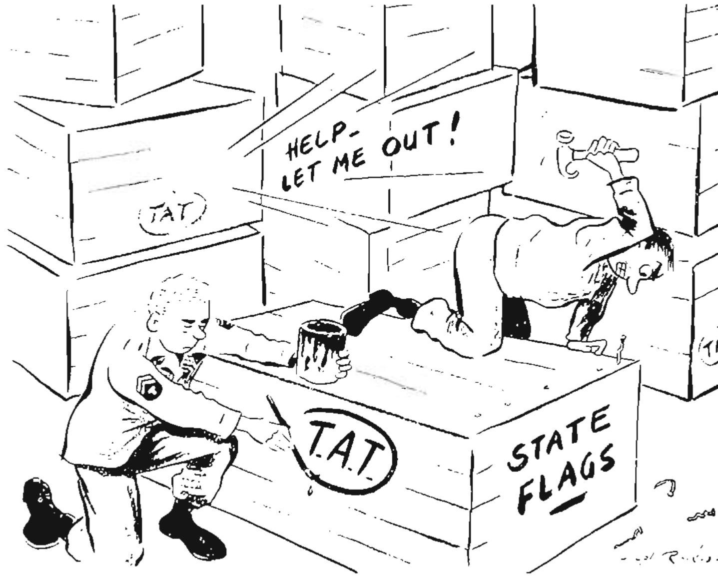

French and Americans work side-by-side at this sturdy battalion headquarters of the 165th Infantry, part of the famous Fighting 69th from New York.


The Rainbow's Brigadier General Douglas MacArthur, commander of the 84th Brigade, receives the D. S. M. from General Pershing after victory.

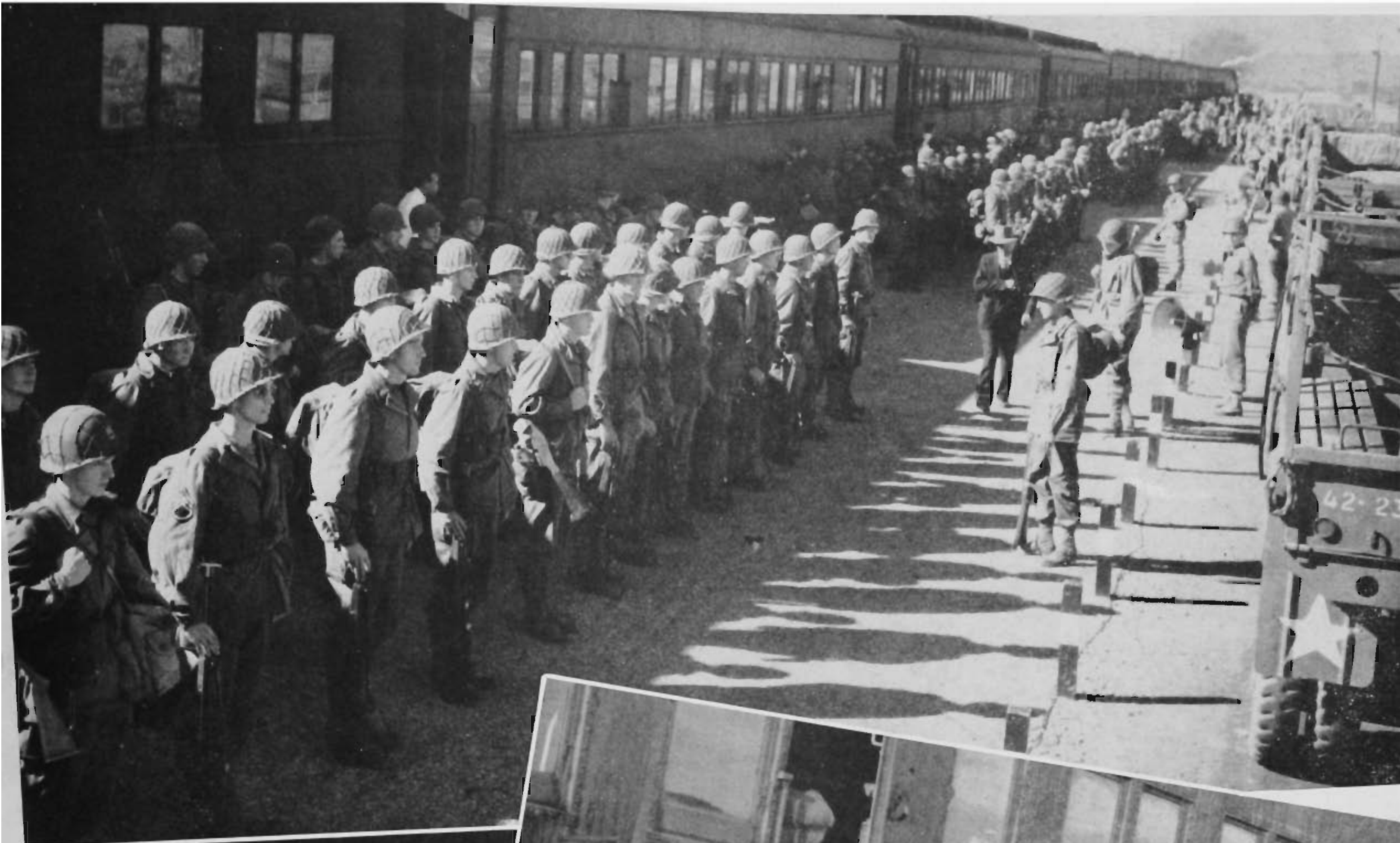
At four o'clock in the morning on October 14 there was a call from Washington to General Collins.

"Stop all other training," the General was instructed. "Get your three infantry regiments ready to go overseas. Every man must complete all POM requirements. Spend the next three weeks on squad problems and make them realistic. The men will be using this training very soon."

Engineers immediately went to work building

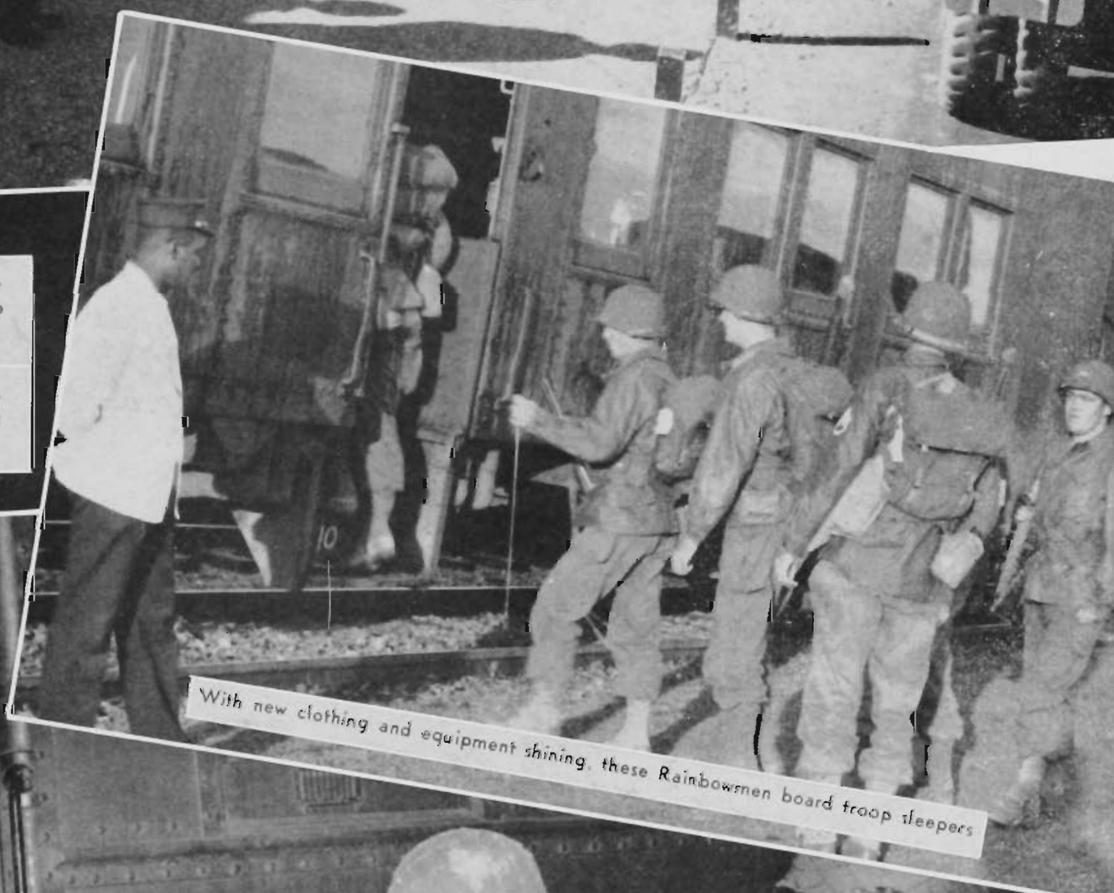






Above: Formed before their cars, men wait the word to enter the train for the long trip to Camp Kilmer.

Below: Most men traveled in regular Pullmans. Few trains went the same way and the trip took two to four days.



With new clothing and equipment shining, these Rainbowmen board troop sleepers

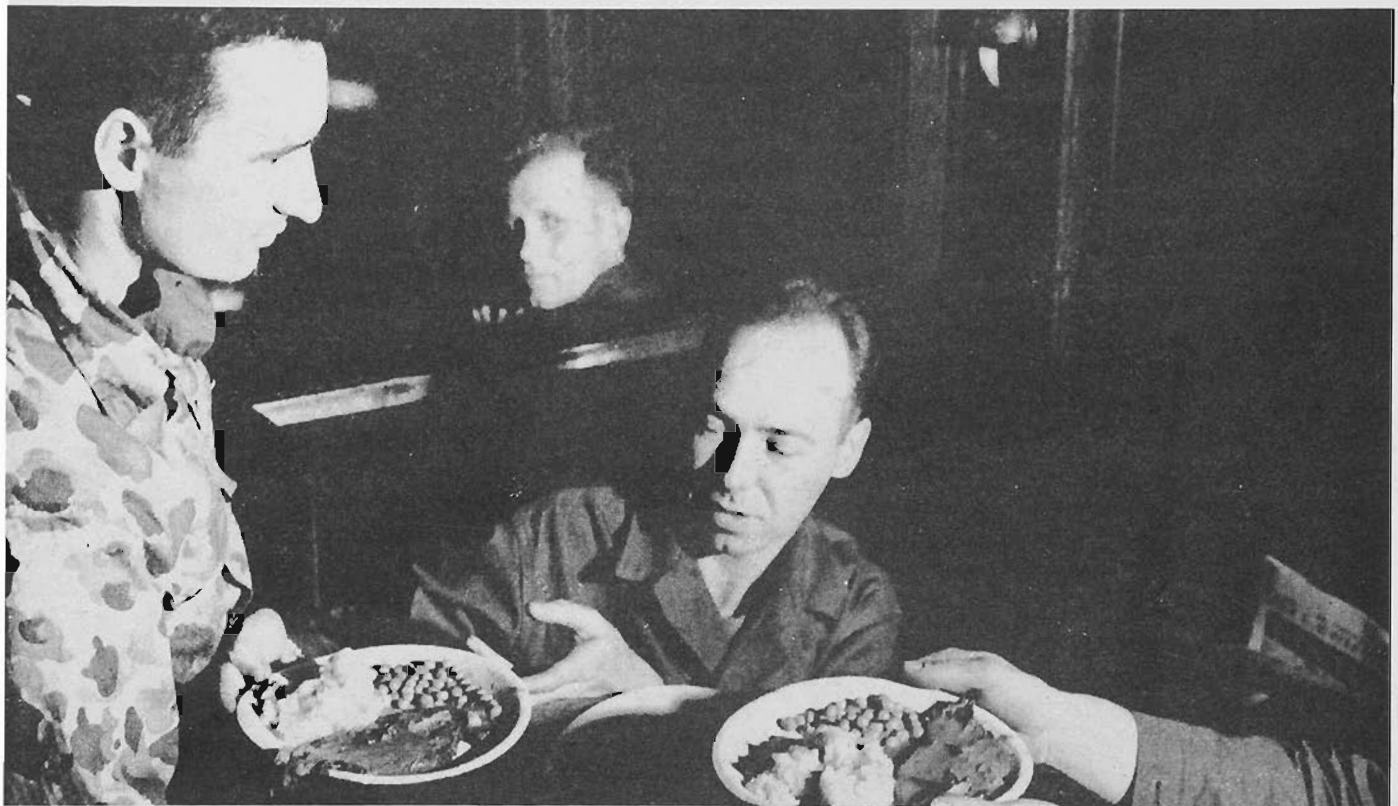


Top: Col. Beall, C of S, bids farewell to Col. Lockett, Camp Gruber Commander.

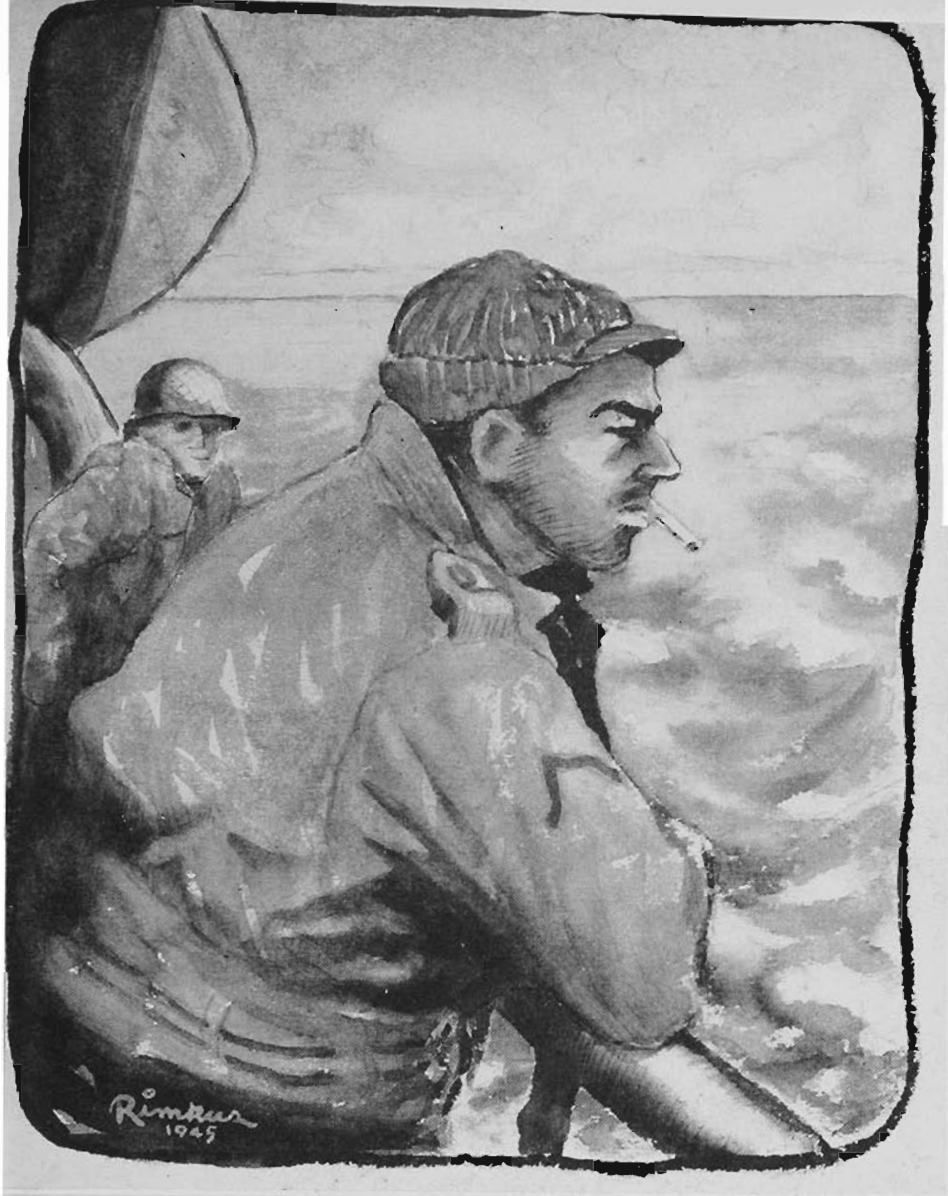
Center: A steak dinner was served on the train to men of the 132d Signal Company the day before Christmas, the same day the infantry saw action.

Bottom: On Christmas Eve members of the band toured the cars and officers and men joined in singing Christmas carols. All were serious and a little sad.

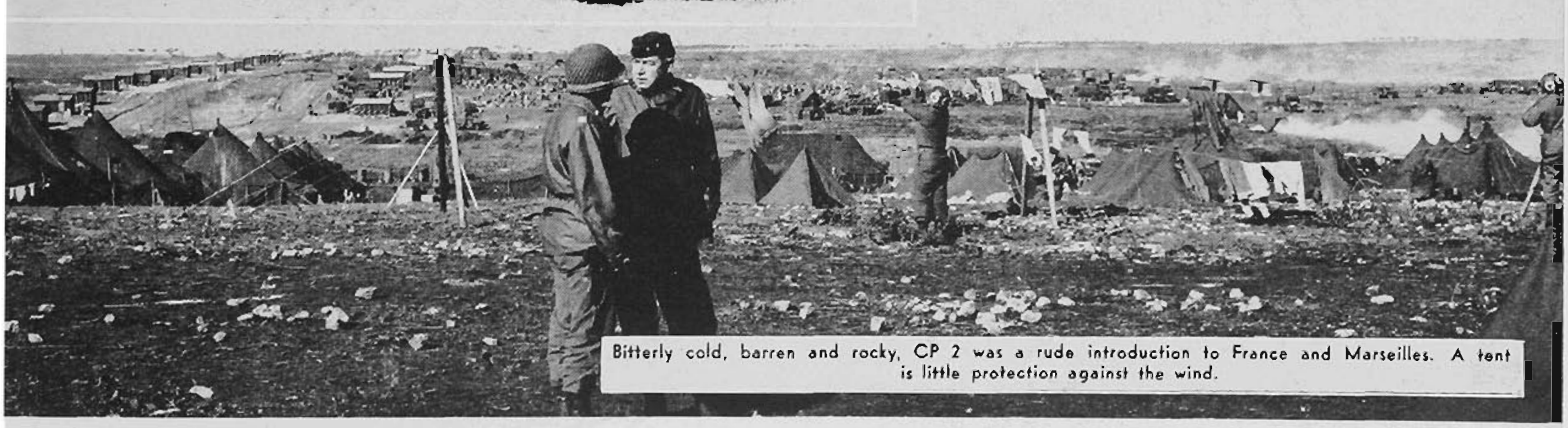




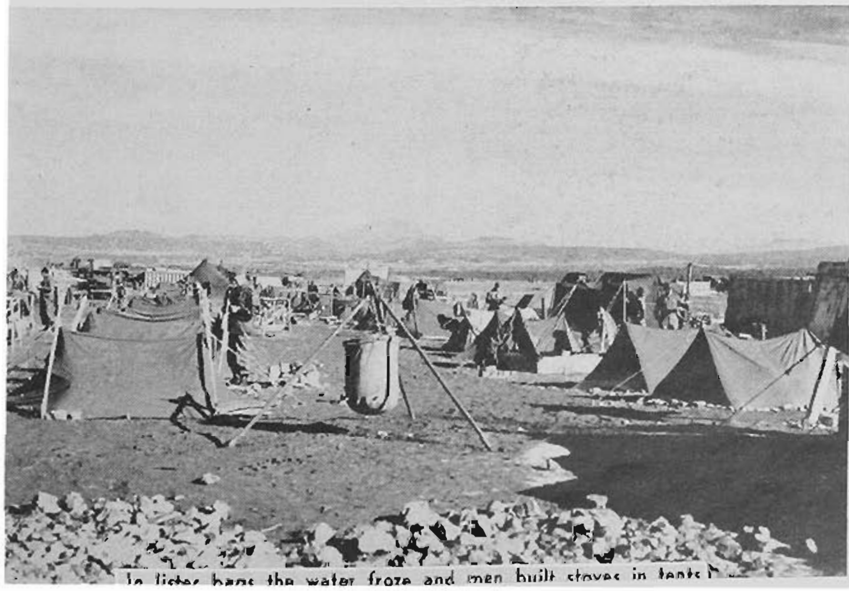




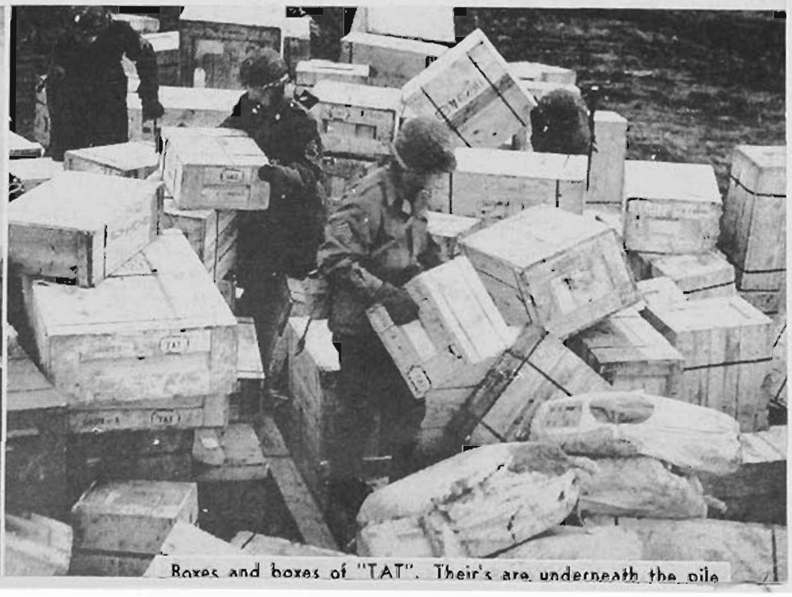
new combat ranges, members of regimental combat teams worked night and day packing the equipment of the infantrymen. Firing ranges were operated from dawn to dusk, required orientation films were shown continuously, lectures on malaria control and trench foot were given over and over again, new equipment, new weapons and new clothing were issued.



Bitterly cold, barren and rocky, CP 2 was a rude introduction to France and Marseilles. A tent is little protection against the wind.



In lister bags the water froze and men built stoves in tents



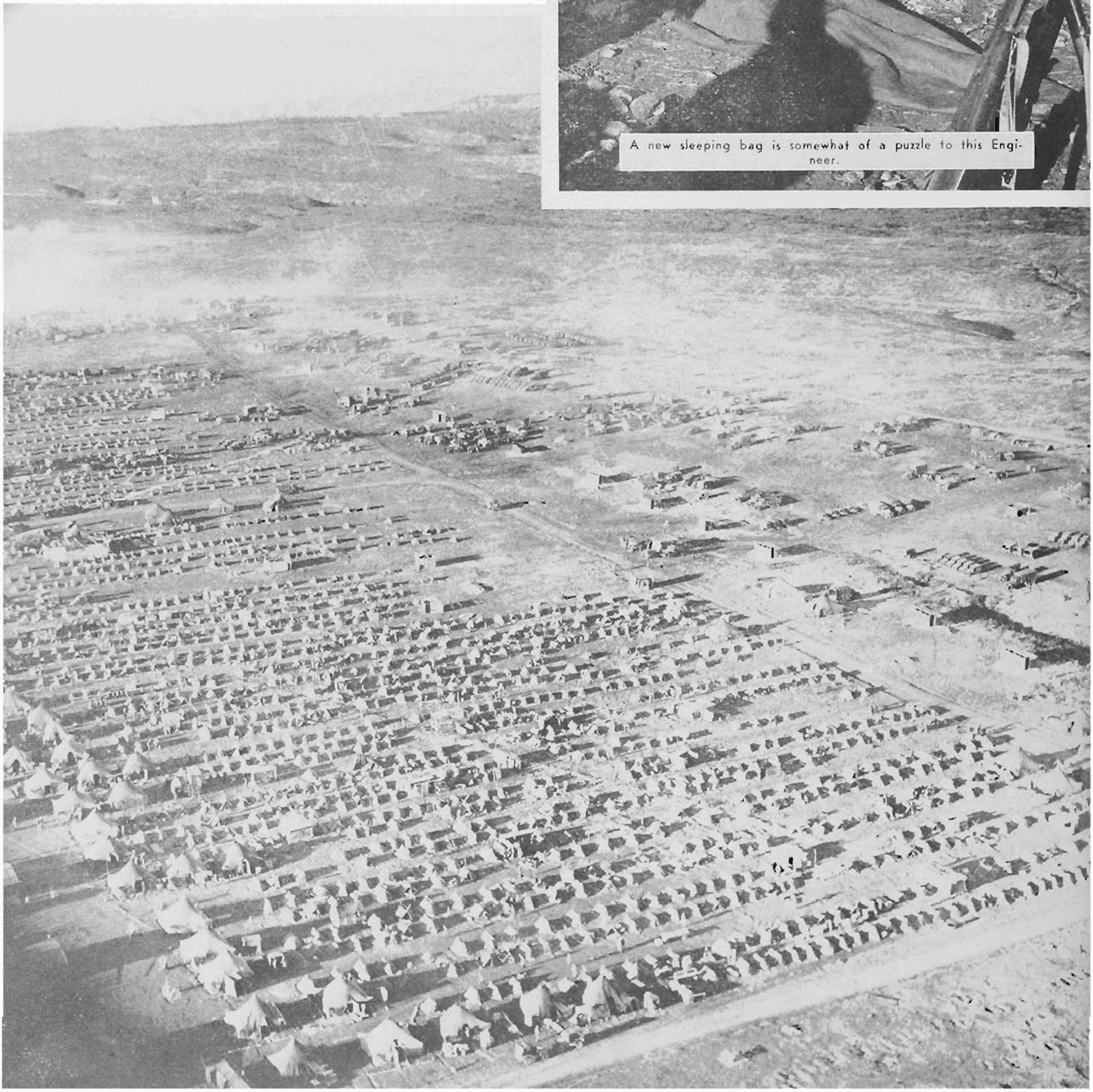
Boxes and boxes of "TAT". Their's are underneath the pile

Once again the Rainbow was making final preparations for a fight and by coincidence it was to enter the line not far from the Luneville section of France where the Rainbow of World War I fought its initial battles. That first Rainbow made history in the famous battles of Champagne, the Meuse-Argonne and St. Mihiel. The new Division was to add equally famous names to Rainbow history.

On November 11 the men of the regiments were restricted to Camp Gruber. Muskogee and Tulsa were a thing of the past. Everyone wore his shiny new fatigues and slept on the floor after all beds



A new sleeping bag is somewhat of a puzzle to this Engineer.



were removed and checked into the camp supply office. Mothers and fathers, wives and sweethearts came out to camp to say their last farewells and the men went to the shows with them or sat restlessly around the service clubs. In the barracks, men with their families far away wrote long letters and told them not to worry, that they would soon be back.

On November 13 the long train of Pullmans and troop-sleepers began backing onto the sidings near the shacks of Braggs and the men marched on quietly while the Division band played the "Rainbow Song" and "Mountain Dew." Once aboard, many waved and cheered as the trains pulled out. After the excitement of waiting and the sadness of the goodbyes it was a relief to be actually on the way.

Despite all the attempts at secrecy there was hardly a man who did not know that he was going to Camp Kilmer, New Jersey, and this, of course, meant Europe. Many a foxhole strategist pointed out that this was just another case of the War Department getting its orders crossed. Anyone knew, they claimed, that the war in Europe was practically over. The Seventh Army was on the Rhine, the Third was only a few miles away, and the Germans were ready to quit. It looked like the Rainbow Division was being sent over to occupy.

The arguments waged, the card games continued, men caught up on sleep they had missed, participated in a training program, and the trains slowly made their way to New York and Kilmer. There the military speculations were forgotten. The only subject of conversation became "when do we get a pass to New York." First, of course, there was the processing, checks of clothing and equipment, shots, medical inspections, another check of clothing. Men stood in long lines at the telephone centers and wrote their first letters which were subject to military censorship. There was plenty of time to write, the letters were long, the company officers watched in dismay as the piles grew higher and higher.

Then came a 12-hour pass to New York. A few men got two before the shipping orders were received. Then the gates were closed, telephones were restricted and on the last days of November the three infantry regiments, lead by a small division headquarters detachment under the command of Brigadier General Henning Linden, climbed on the boats for Marseilles.

Meanwhile, back at Gruber the balance of the Rainbow was getting ready to follow the infantry. Training requirements were being completed and packing and crating teams were busy. Word had been received that the remainder of the division would leave for the port late in December.

On December 8 and 9 the Infantry regiments, soon to be known officially as Task Force Linden, arrived at Marseilles and marched out to a stony, windswept piece of ground known as Command Post 2.

No man of the Rainbow Division who passed through CP 2 will ever forget it. It was a rude introduction to Europe and an indication of the miserably cold days and nights which lay ahead. It was a far different world than these men had left only 10 days to two weeks before. Here the war seemed very close. At night there was blackout and occasionally a German plane flew over the area and the anti-aircraft guns of the port defense barked at it. Training continued and now, more than ever, there seemed a purpose in it.

The war news was important now for up north the Germans were opening what was later to be known as the "Battle of the Bulge." Everyone realized that this supreme effort on the part of Von Rundstedt was going to affect him. The American forces were being pushed back, the Third Army was moving northward to smash the flank of the German penetration and attempt to cut off the attackers. The Seventh Army was forced to take over more territory, extend its lines to fill the gap left by the Third.

The infantry regiments of the Rainbow Division were needed in this fight. Assigned to the Third Army, the regiments left CP 2 in trucks and on 40 and 8 boxcars for an assembly area near Bensdorf, France, on December 18 and 19. While they were enroute their orders were changed and Task Force Linden was assigned to the Seventh Army and directed to relieve elements of the 36th Infantry Division in the vicinity of Strasbourg.

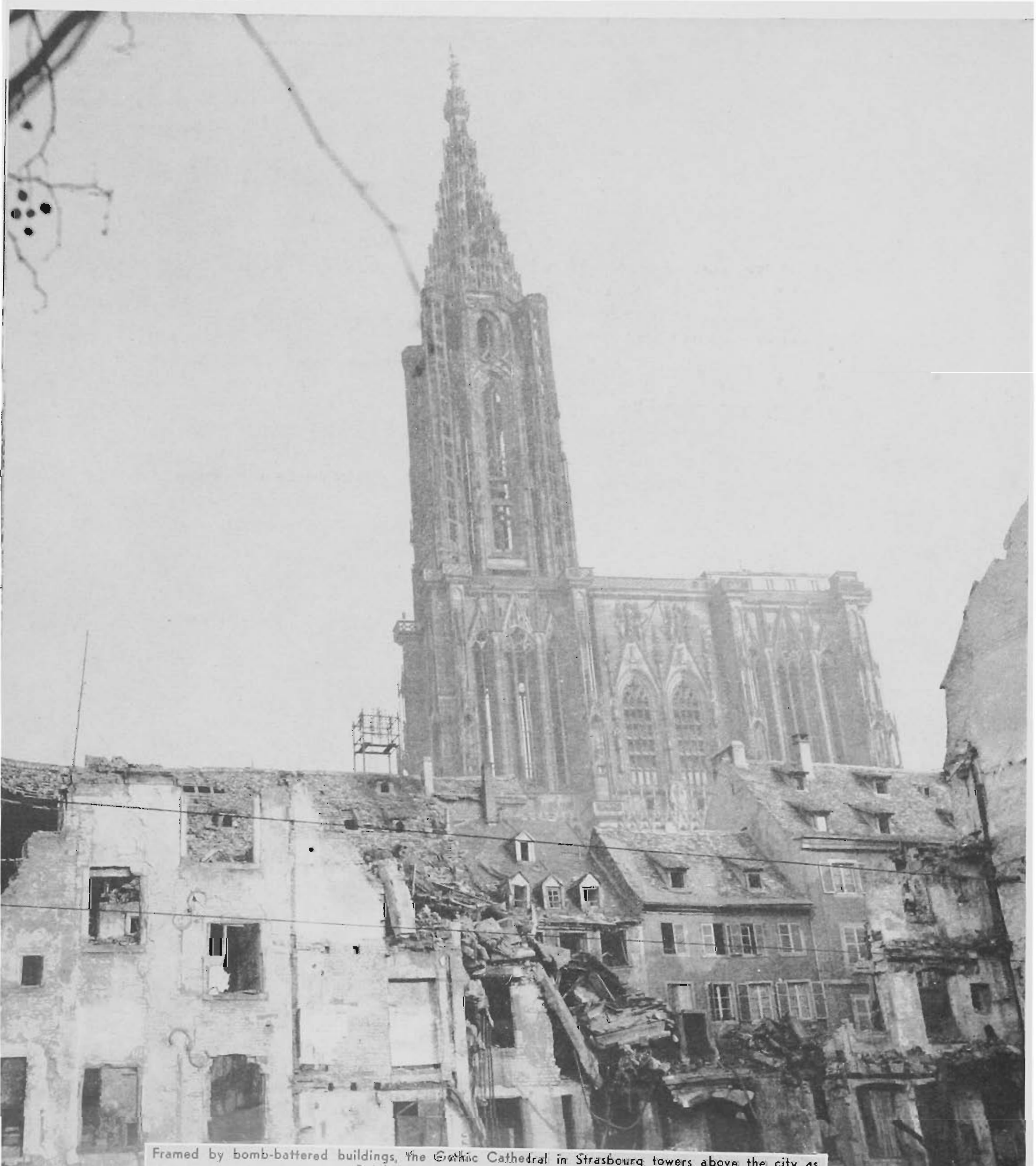
Two days before Christmas the Rainbow infantrymen arrived in the vicinity of Strasbourg and were billetted in old French forts and in school houses. Here they had running water and a place to sleep inside a building. Those things were more important at the moment than the fact that soon they would be in combat and that Christmas was only a few hours away.

Back at Gruber the remainder of the division also had little time to think about Christmas for they were either enroute or boarding trains for Camp Kilmer. Christmas Day to them was going to mean either a small tree set up in the aisle of a train, or processing at the staging area. No one knew that in France the men of Task Force Linden were about to go into action.

On the day before Christmas and on Christmas Day the infantry regiments of the Rainbow moved into front line defensive positions along the Rhine River and Task Force Linden was placed under control of the 79th Division.

The regimental fronts extended for approximately 19 miles, with the 232nd Infantry on the left, or north flank above the city of Strasbourg, the Second Battalion of the 222nd Infantry in the city and the 242nd Infantry on the south.

Across the river were the Germans. They too were on the defensive and it was Christmas and they were content with firing only an occasional burst of automatic weapons fire into our positions. When they were answered with a fusilade from an entire company they soon became discouraged and quit. Once a patrol made a half-hearted effort to cross the river, probably looking for a prisoner so as to identify the new unit which had moved into the lines. Two machine guns opened fire at



Framed by bomb-battered buildings, the Gothic Cathedral in Strasbourg towers above the city as Rainbowmen entered on Christmas Day.

the enemy and they turned their boats around and made for cover.

On December 26 there began a period of movement and shifting of positions which was to continue for 10 days. Up north a fierce battle was still raging in the Bulge. Generals were grabbing the nearest units to fill gaps, to open holes. There were plans to withdraw all along the Seventh Army front to the Vosges mountains and let the Germans regain Strasbourg. The Seventh Army line was being spread ever more thinly as units were pulled out and rushed north.

On the first of January the 222nd Infantry took over the sector of the 242nd and that regiment was moved into Task Force reserve near the tiny towns of Holtzheim and Hangenbeiten, two snow-covered farm villages about four miles outside of Strasbourg. There the regiment was to be prepared to block a possible enemy attack from the south should the Nazis attempt to launch a pincer to tie in with an attack from Bitche, to the north.

Only a few hours did the 242nd remain there, however, for on the following day orders were received to move one regiment to occupy the south portion of the Vosges mountain line and the regiment was moved back to Rosheim. Plans were being made to withdraw from Strasbourg and the Rhine into the mountains, where possibly better defensive positions could be established, and lines greatly shortened.

Meanwhile, the threat of an attack from the south remained and to meet it the 222nd Infantry was moved on the night of January 2 into the positions just east of Strasbourg which had been vacated by the 242nd. Spread even more thinly, the 232nd Infantry took up the entire defense of 19 miles of the Rhine with the Second and Third Battalions on the line and the First just behind them in reserve in the town of Souffel-Weyersheim, about a mile and half north of the outskirts of Strasbourg.

The war of movement was continuing, however, and the following day this First Battalion of the 232nd was moved northward by the 79th Division to relieve elements of the 274th Infantry in the towns of Soufflenheim, Stattmatten and Drusenheim, small dots on the map along the Rhine River where the men of the Rainbow were to do some of their most fierce fighting. The regimental front was now 33 miles long.

Meanwhile, big decisions had been made. Winston Churchill had conferred with France's General De Gaulle. The French wanted to hold Strasbourg.

It was agreed French troops would take over the city and the area immediately north of it and American troops would hold the line along the Rhine River. The withdrawal to the Vosges positions would be a last resort and the Germans would have to fight for every mile they gained.

No longer needed in the Vosges, the 242nd Infantry was ordered to move to Brumath and from there to Niederbetschdorf, then into the line to relieve the 314th Infantry of the 79th Division. This assigned them a sector of approximately five miles just north of the 232nd Infantry.

January 3 was bitter cold, the roads were icy and refugees were streaming out of Strasbourg. They believed the Americans were about to abandon the city to the Germans and were fleeing back into liberated France. Through the afternoon of the third and the darkness of the early hours of the fourth the 242nd moved into Brumath and two Battalions, using all the regimental transportation, moved on northward and began the relief of the 314th Infantry. The Second Battalion was left in the town to await the return of the vehicles. They were there when the Germans launched their attack the following day.

The same decision which relieved the 242nd of its Vosges positions also freed the 222nd from its blocking mission and the regiment was instructed to move northward to the extreme left flank of the 79th Division sector to relieve the 315th Infantry of that division in the vicinity of Soultz Sous Forets. On January 4 the Second Battalion of the 222nd Infantry took over the positions in Strasbourg that Company G, 232nd Infantry, had held and that company was moved into the town of Offendorf, occupying a gap between the First and Third Battalion of the 232nd Regiment.

The following day, January 5, was one of the most eventful in the history of the Rainbow. Early that morning the First French Army began taking over Strasbourg and the area immediately north and south of the city, relieving the Second Battalion, 232nd Infantry, the Second Battalion, 222nd Infantry, and Companies I and K of the 232nd. At 0800 on the same day the 222nd Infantry began its movement to Soultz to take up its new positions. Its vehicles having returned, the Second Battalion of the 242nd Infantry was at the same time beginning to move to its new positions to the north.

Possibly knowing of this movement, possibly merely fortunate in selecting a time for their attack, the Germans crossed the Rhine River north of Strasbourg during the darkness of the morning of January 5 and at 0745 launched an attack against the towns of Gambsheim, Offendorf, Herli-

sheim and Kilstett. They could not have selected a better time.

The enemy force which launched the attack was a collection of infantry units about the strength of an infantry regiment and contained two battalions of SS troopers. Supporting the force was about 20 tanks and self-propelled guns, 81 and 120-mm. mortars, self-propelled 75-mm. anti-tank guns, 75-mm. field howitzers and artillery.

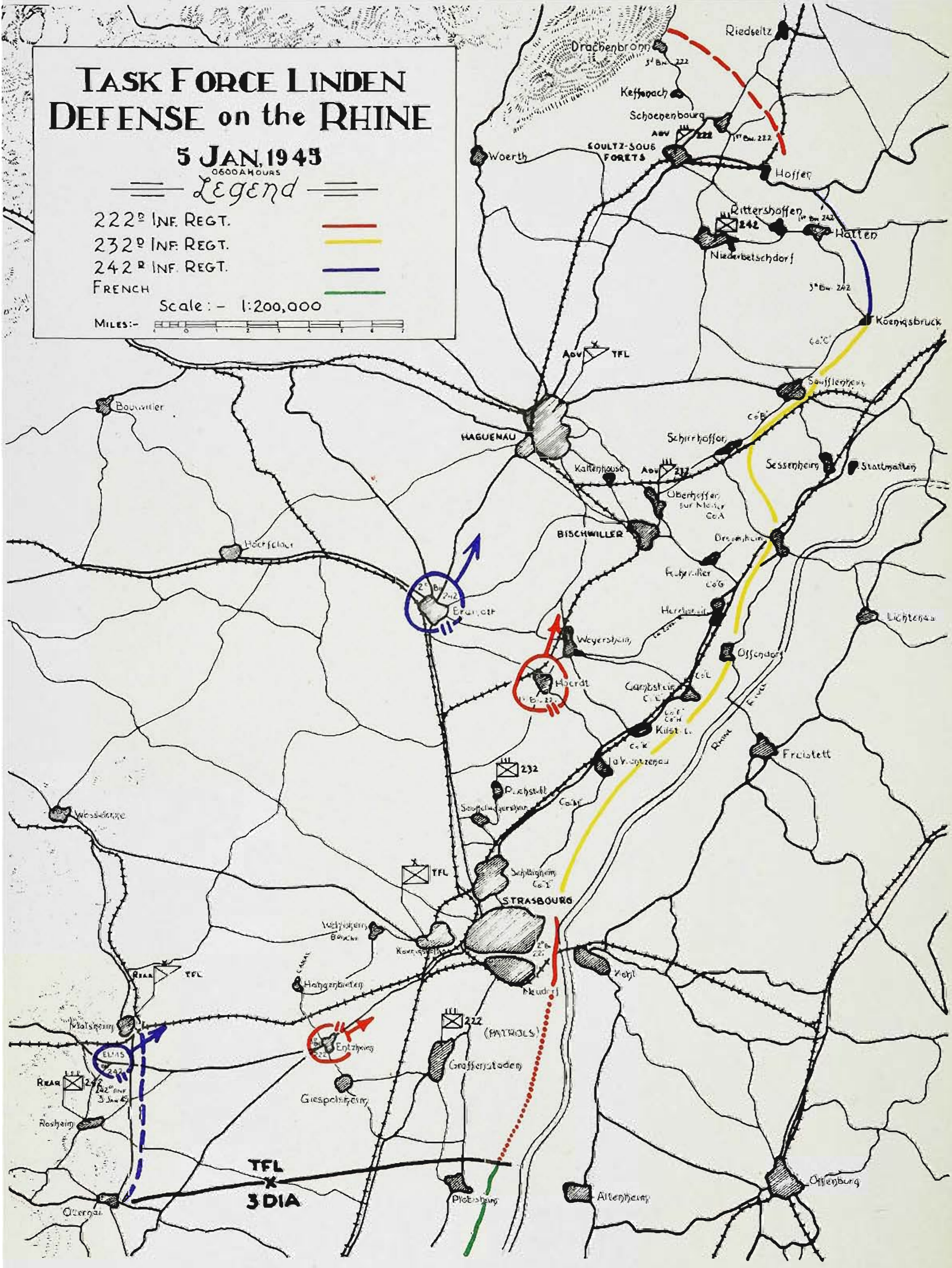




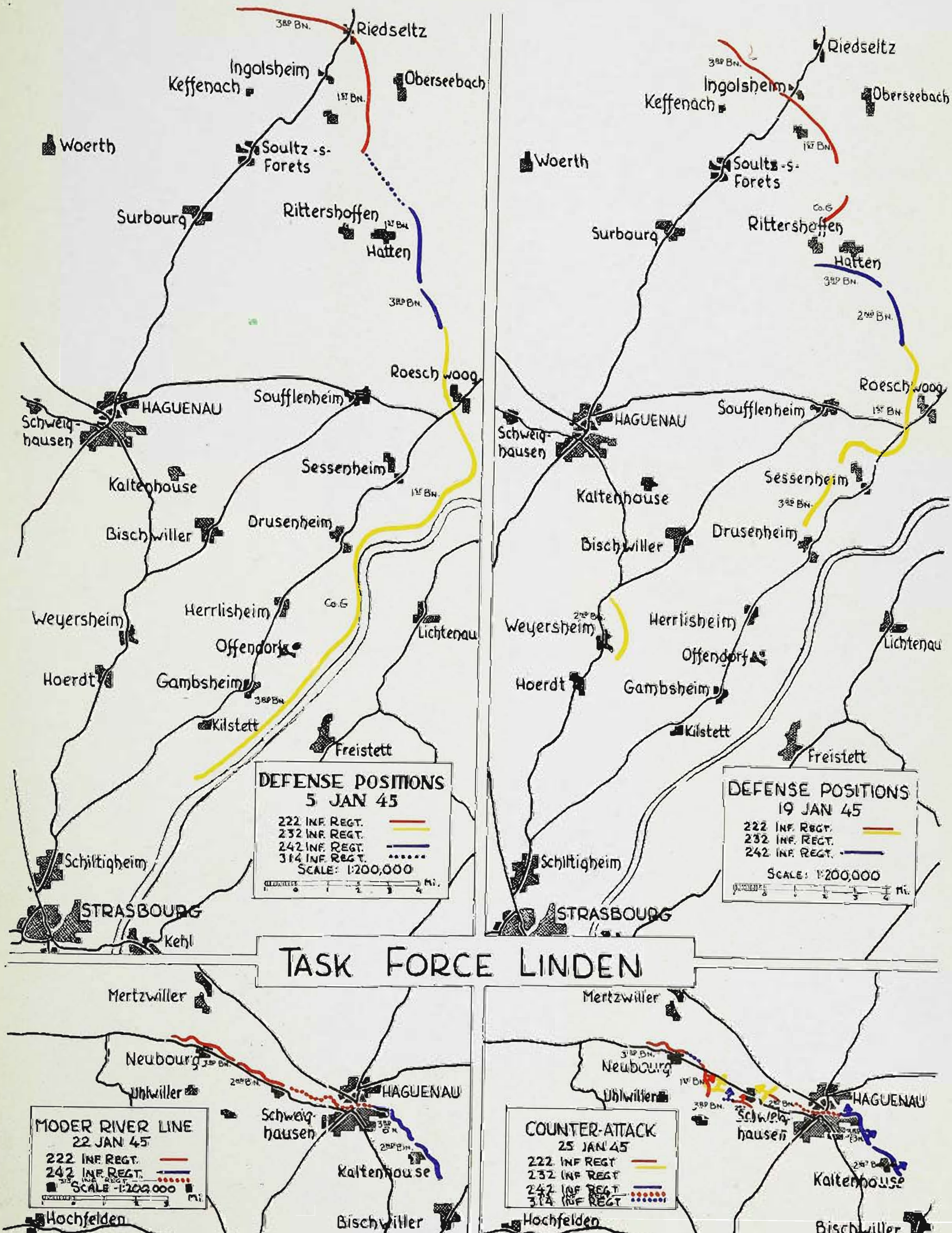
Men of Company I, 242d Infantry, construct a CP in the woods near Kauffenheim. Other companies on the front built similar structures.



This machine gun emplacement is a protection from the wind and cold as well as enemy fire. A good snow will camouflage it.



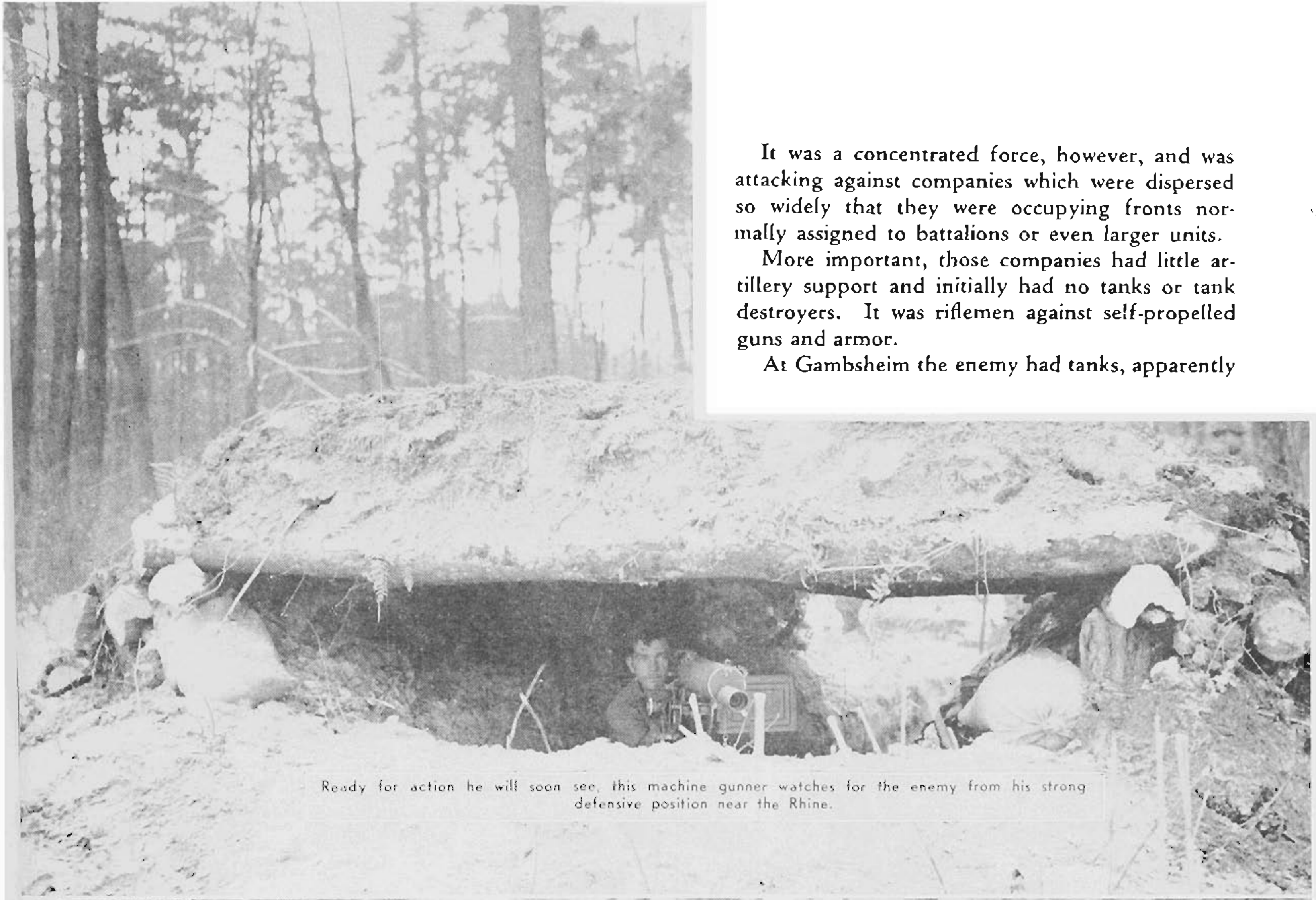
TASK FORCE LINDEN
DEFENSE on the RHINE
5 JAN, 1945
0600 HOURS
Legend
222º INF. REGT.
232º INF. REGT.
242º INF. REGT.
FRENCH
Scale: - 1:200,000
MILES:-
Riedseltz
Drachenbronn
Keffenach
Schoenenbourg
SOULTZ-SOUS FORETS
Woerth
Hoffen
Rittershoffen
242
Hatten
Niederbetschdorf
Koenigsbruck
ADV TFL
Soufflenheim
Bouxwiller
HAGUENAU
Schirrhoffen
Sessenheim
Stattmatten
Kaltenhouse
ADV 232
Oberhoffen sur Moder
Co. A
BISCHWILLER
Drusenheim
Rohrwiller
Herrlisheim
Lichtenau
Weyersheim
Offendorf
Hoerdt
Gambsheim
Kilstett
La Wantzenau
Rhine
Freistett
232
Reichstett
Souffelweyersheim
Wasselonne
TFL
Schiltigheim
STRASBOURG
Kehl
Neudorf
REAR TFL
Hangenbieten
Molsheim
222
(PATROLS)
Entzheim
REAR 242
Graffenstaden
Geispolsheim
Rosheim
TFL
3 DIA
Obernai
Plobsheim
Altenheim
Offenburg


TASK FORCE LINDEN
DEFENSE POSITIONS
5 JAN 45
222 INF. REGT.
232 INF. REGT.
242 INF. REGT.
314 INF. REGT.
SCALE: 1:200,000
Mi.
DEFENSE POSITIONS
19 JAN 45
222 INF. REGT.
232 INF. REGT.
242 INF. REGT.
SCALE: 1:200,000
Mi.
MODER RIVER LINE
22 JAN 45
222 INF. REGT.
242 INF. REGT.
SCALE 1:200,000
Mi.
COUNTER-ATTACK
25 JAN 45
222 INF REGT
232 INF REGT
242 INF REGT
314 INF REGT
Riedseltz
Ingolsheim
Keffenach
Oberseebach
Woerth
Soultz-s-Forets
Surbourg
Rittershoffen
Hatten
Roeschwoog
Soufflenheim
HAGUENAU
Schweighausen
Sessenheim
Kaltenhouse
Bischwiller
Drusenheim
Weyersheim
Herrlisheim
Offendorf
Lichtenau
Hoerdt
Gambsheim
Kilstett
Freistett
Schiltigheim
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Hochfelden
3RD BN.
1ST BN.
2ND BN.
Co. G

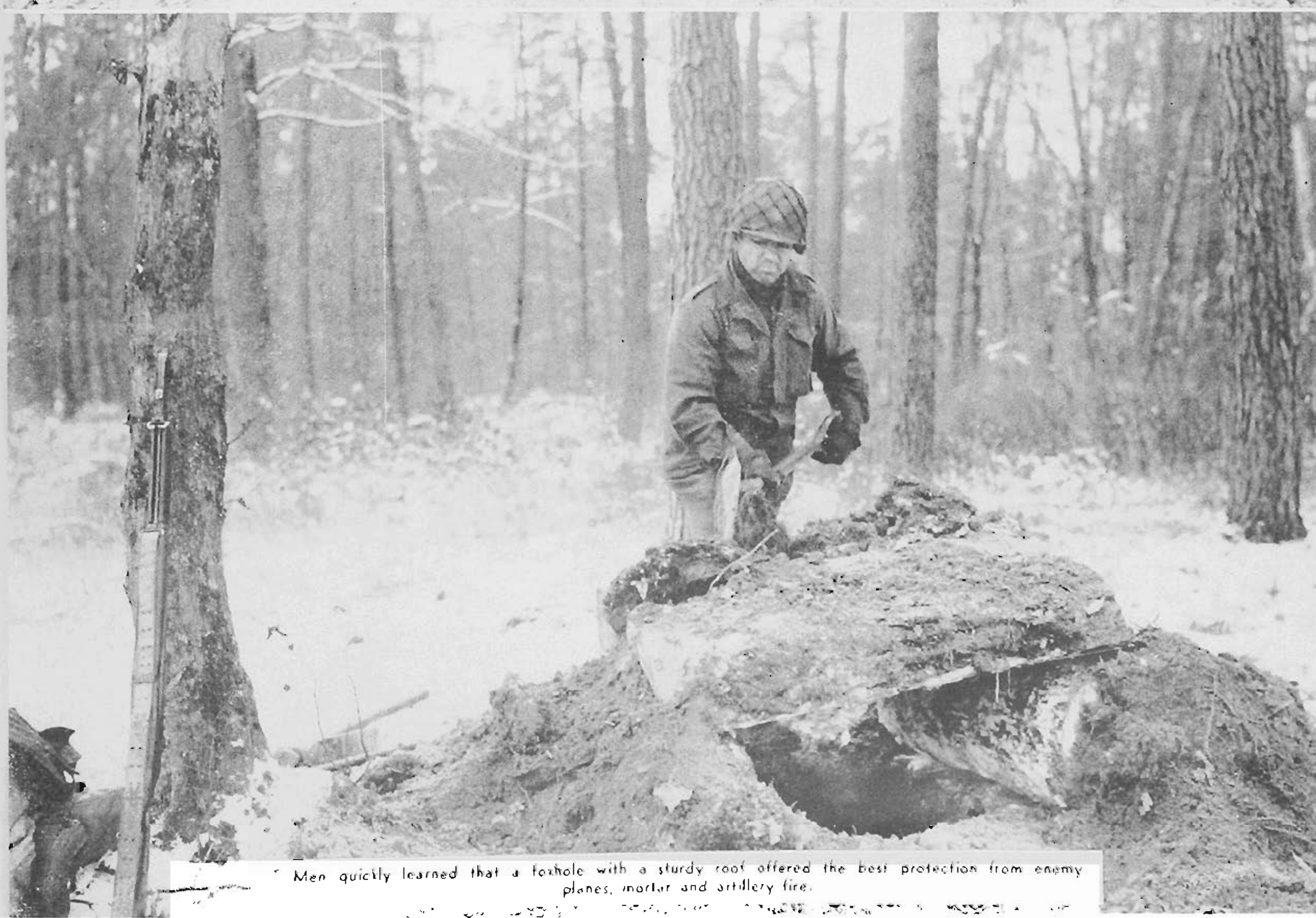
It was a concentrated force, however, and was attacking against companies which were dispersed so widely that they were occupying fronts normally assigned to battalions or even larger units.

More important, those companies had little artillery support and initially had no tanks or tank destroyers. It was riflemen against self-propelled guns and armor.

At Gambsheim the enemy had tanks, apparently



Ready for action he will soon see, this machine gunner watches for the enemy from his strong defensive position near the Rhine.



Men quickly learned that a foxhole with a sturdy roof offered the best protection from enemy planes, mortar and artillery fire.

ferried across the river on barges. Men lying in the snow with rifles tried to stop them.

"Everyone kept shooting, trying for a lucky hit on the wheels or in the engine," said a sergeant who was captured and later freed by Rainbowmen. "The tanks just came up and fired point blank at the men, but they didn't retreat.

"Finally an officer leaned out of his tank turret and shouted 'Surrender, surrender, you damn fools.' A fellow next to me answered him with a blast from his BAR which tore his arm off."

Despite individual courage, the odds were too great. Germans surrounded the town and the majority of its defenders, men of two rifle platoons of Company L, a machine gun and mortar section of Company M, an anti-tank squad from the Third Battalion Headquarters, all 232nd Infantry, were captured or killed.

North of the town the Germans launched similar attacks against the tiny communities of Herrlisheim and Offendorf, defended by Company G, 232nd. Here the enemy had infantry and artillery, but no tanks.

"They came at us in a straight line, just walking toward us with their rifles held at port arms," explained a company officer. "They seemed to want to keep their lines straight for some reason or other. Whenever it would begin to sag or to show gaps where we had hit men they would send up a flare, stop, straighten up the line and then come forward again. All the time their machine guns and mortars were firing at us.

"There were just so many of them that we couldn't stop them all. They encircled us in the towns."

In Offendorf the defenders were forced to surrender. A total of about 80 men fought their way out of Herlisheim.

South of Gambsheim the Germans laid heavy artillery and mortar concentrations on the town of Kilstett and although an infantry attack was expected, it did not come and Kilstett was successfully reinforced.

While the attack was developing, Colonel Alfred A. McNamee, commander of the 232nd, had been gathering widely dispersed forces for a counterthrust. Orders to General Linden from the Commanding General of the 79th Division were to attack from Weyersheim to Gambsheim with the strongest force he could assemble.

Back at Brumath, loading into trucks to move to their new positions, were men of the Second Battalion, 242nd Infantry. Companies G and F were about to pull out when word of the attack reached them and they turned and raced for Weyersheim. Two task forces were formed, one known as Task Force A at Kilstett and the other, Task Force B, at Weyersheim.

The plan was for Task Force B to attack westward along the road from Weyersheim to Gambsheim, a distance of four and half miles, and Task Force A to drive northward from Kilstett, about two miles away.

The two attacks got under way at 1545. The force attacking from Weyersheim advanced approximately half the distance when it was held up at a canal by heavy automatic weapons fire. Units on the right managed to drive through, however, and reach a creek west of the town. The entire task force was then compelled by darkness to withdraw to the canal, there to reorganize and prepare for another attack. Task Force A, attacking from the south met heavy, observed artillery fire just north of Kilstett and was unable to advance. It withdrew back into the town and prepared to launch another attack in the morning.

Task Force B, now under the command of Lieutenant Colonel William B. Zeller, executive officer of the 232nd Infantry, continued the attack during the night and at 0230 on January 6 again crossed the canal. Moving forward against heavy enemy fire, the men of Companies F and G of the 242nd Infantry charged a woods northeast of Gambsheim, while Companies E of the 222nd and 232nd Infantry Regiments, the latter in reserve, attacked south of the woods through successive bands of interlacing machine gun fire. The sky was an inferno of blazing red tracers and bursting, hot shells, but the Rainbow men refused to be stopped. By dawn, E Company, 222nd Infantry, had sustained heavy casualties but had succeeded in reaching the railroad tracks bordering the town, where it was momentarily stopped by determined enemy automatic weapons. Realizing that full daybreak would make them easy targets for enemy artillery, the doughboys leaped to their feet yelling, "Hubba! Hubba!" and fought their way into Gambsheim, where they were quickly joined by Company E of the 232nd Infantry.

Ammunition was now low, but the two companies pressed bitterly on and by mid-morning had crossed the town. Then the enemy launched a fierce counterattack with five Tiger tanks supported by infantry. Possessing no bazooka ammunition, the Rainbowmen watched their rifle grenades bounce harmlessly off the enemy tanks. Left with nothing with which to fight, the Battalion Commander ordered a withdrawal back to the canal. During this operation Lieutenant Colonel Zeller was captured.

Meanwhile Companies F and G had been hit



A familiar sight—soldiers moving to the front and civilians hurrying to the rear. The men are from Company G, 232d Infantry.



Fearing the Germans would retake Alsace, they have loaded their valuable possessions in wagons, dog carts and even baby buggies.



An old woman has harnessed a small dog and her grandchild to a wagon and flees through snow toward the city of Haguenau.



Air raids were infrequent, but at Neiderbetschdorf, France, a plane scored a hit on the command post of the 242d Infantry.



No one was injured in this bombing and the work of digging out a truck and a jeep is begun. The men keep their weapons handy.

heavily in the woods by observed artillery fire and were attacked by tanks and infantry. They fought bitterly, but were finally forced to withdraw with heavy casualties.

When word was received at regimental headquarters that Task Force B had reached the railroad tracks, Task Force A was ordered to attack from Kilstett. Immediately a heavy concentration of artillery and mortar fire was placed on the advancing troops, but Company F, 232nd Infantry, managed to advance and reached the tiny town of Bethlenhoffen, which adjoins Gambsheim. Company K of the same regiment cleared out a patch of woods just south of the town. However, as these companies were out of contact and not mutually supporting they were withdrawn on a line with Kilstett.

Meanwhile, north of Gambsheim Company B of the 232nd Infantry had been surrounded at the town of Statmatten, but had fought its way to Sessenheim, and Company A had received heavy shelling in Drusenheim. Here the enemy was trying unsuccessfully to extend its bridgehead northward.

On the morning of January 6 Company B launched an infantry-tank attack on Statmatten, routed the enemy from the town and captured several prisoners. An attack by the 314th Infantry Regiment of the 79th Division relieved the pressure on Company A in Drusenheim and the German efforts to expand northward were stopped.

Now after two days of bitter fighting the Rainbowmen, engaged in their first battle, had contained the enemy bridgehead across the Rhine. The Germans had struck at what was for them the best possible time. They were numerically superior in at least the initial phases of the engagement. They had armor and artillery support and yet they had been unable to advance. While they continued to hold their bridgehead, they could not expand it and were forced to go on the defensive the same afternoon that they made their crossing.

Northward, however, the enemy was exerting steady pressure along the other regimental fronts. His aim was to force a withdrawal. He wanted Strasbourg and he wanted Haguenau and he certainly knew that if the Allies were forced to withdraw they must go back to the Vosges, which would give him both his objectives, and perhaps, force American reinforcements to this front from the vital Bulge area.

On January 6 strong German patrols probed both the First and Third Battalions of the 222nd Infantry, but were driven off. The following day another patrol hit the outposts of the Third Battalion, but was driven off.

The Germans were looking for a place to attack and on January 9 they selected the town of Hatten. Once again they made a mistake.

Defending the town of Hatten was the First Battalion of the 242nd Infantry. Behind them, only a mile away in the town of Rittershoffen, was the Second Battalion of the same regiment, which had just moved up after its engagements at Gambsheim. On the other side were elements of the 25th Panzer Grenadier Division and the 21st Panzer Division. Used in the battle against the 242nd men were about 1,050 enemy troops, all combat veterans and recognized as among the best in Hitler's army. They were equipped with 30 Mark V tanks and 10 self-propelled guns.

At 0500 on the ninth of January the Germans launched their first attack and the men of the First Battalion began the defense which was to win them a Presidential Unit Citation. The first assault, made by white-clad infantry and with white-painted tanks, penetrated the lines of Company B, but these men who were fighting their first real battle didn't think of retreat. Instead, they let the Germans pass and then Company C launched a counterattack which restored the original line.

A new assault was then launched against Company A, which had taken up positions in Maginot Line pillboxes, and Germans by-passed them. The enemy then made their way into Hatten and began a furious house-to-house battle with the men of Company C. In this fighting and that which had preceded it every Company C officer was a casualty and the first sergeant temporarily took charge of the company.

Shortly after 11 o'clock 18 enemy tanks followed by 18 to 20 personnel carriers attacked Company B, penetrated their lines and surrounded a large Maginot pillbox which a number of men of the company were defending. Still the men held their ground.

The original orders had been to hold their positions at all costs and they held.

Now, however, the enemy was well into Hatten, but they could not advance. Anti-tank mines had been laid cross the streets of the town and the men of the 242nd Infantry were covering these with fire. By now everyone was in the battle. Cooks and clerks and Battalion Headquarters personnel were operating machine guns and manning rifles.

At the headquarters of the First Battalion, Private First Class Bertoldo was waging his 48-hour defense of the Command Post which won him the Congressional Medal of Honor. When the battalion CP was attacked by a German tank with its 88-mm. gun and machine gun fire, Bertoldo re-

mained at his post and with his own machine gun killed the occupants of the tank when they tried to remove mines which were blocking their advance.

When its headquarters was blasted by an enemy assault gun the Battalion Command Post moved two buildings to the west only to be attacked there by a Mark V tank.

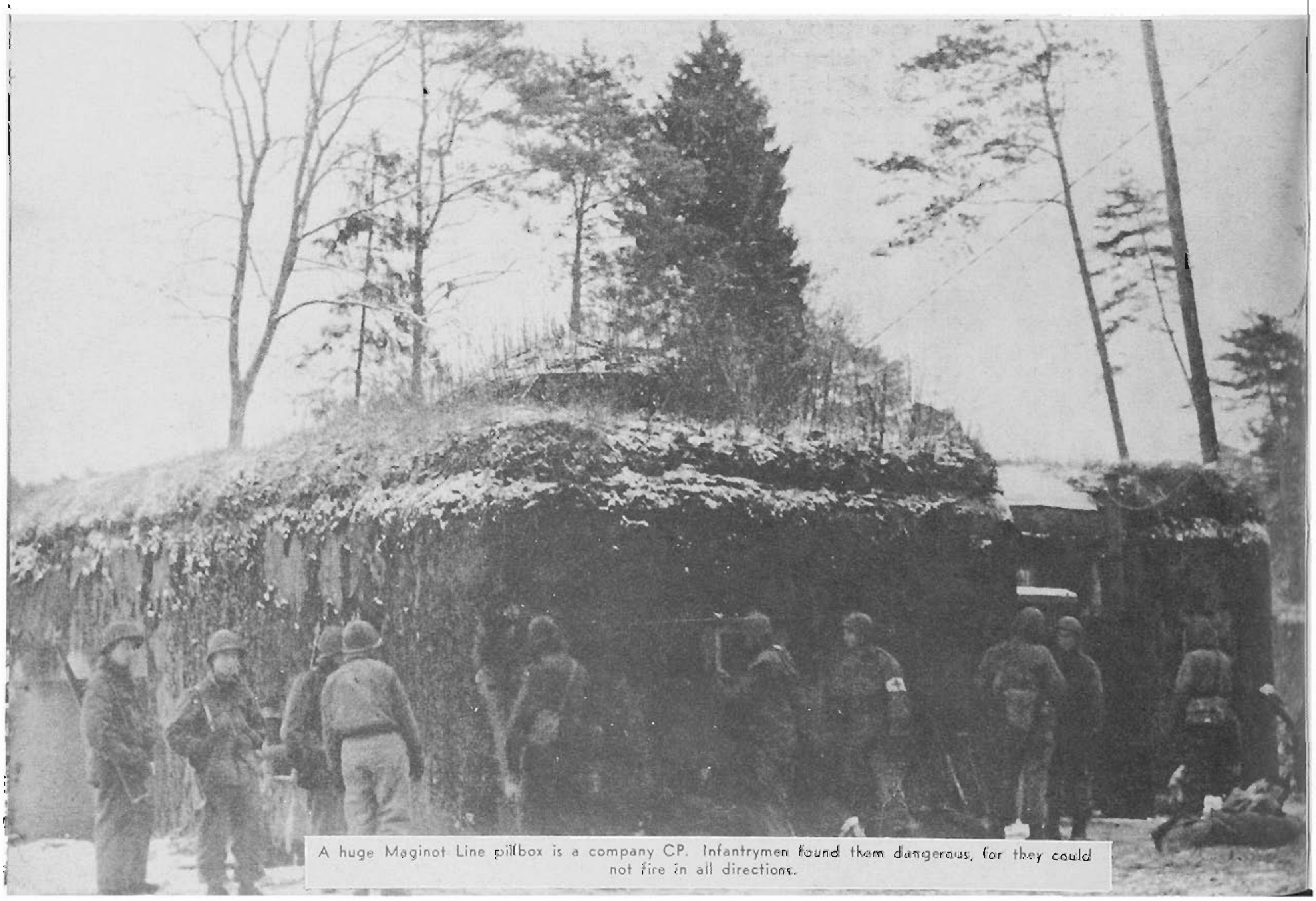
Meanwhile another German attack, launched about 1300, broke around Hatten and penetrated to Rittershoffen. The Second Battalion of the 242nd Infantry, supported by tanks, launched a counterattack and drove the enemy back into Hatten. There Company G took up positions in the west end of town.

Back and forth moved the battle throughout the afternoon and night with the Germans trying desperately to drive the stubborn defenders from the town. At midnight, however, the 242nd held more than half the community and both sides were preparing to launch fresh attacks at dawn.

At daybreak the German tanks and infantry attacked from southeast of Hatten to gain the town and met an attack by men of the 242nd Infantry which stopped them cold. At 1030 the enemy tried another attack, this time from the north and northeast, with the intention of cutting the Hatten-



A hut of pine boughs over a foxhole is warm, safe and comfortable.



A huge Maginot Line pillbox is a company CP. Infantrymen found them dangerous, for they could not fire in all directions.



Forced to withdraw to Haguenau, men of the 242d Infantry set up an anti-tank gun at the outskirts of the town.



A mortar shell explodes in an enemy position across the Moder in Haguenau, routing snipers of the 10th SS Div.



A round from a bazooka and a 57-mm. anti-tank gun have just landed in this snipers' nest across the Moder.

Rittershoffen road. Once again they were repulsed, this time by the Second Battalion, 242nd Infantry, and the Second Battalion of the 315th Infantry, which had just been committed by the 79th Division.

Throughout the day the enemy continued to assault and throughout the day the First and Second Battalions of the 242nd Infantry stopped the attacks. At 1730 the Second Battalion of the 315th was ordered to relieve the battered First Battalion of the 242nd, but not until 0200 on January 11 was the relief accomplished.

These men had staged a magnificent defense, but it had cost them heavily. The battalion began the battle of Hatten with 33 officers and 748 enlisted men. Fifty-two hours later it had an effective strength of 11 officers and 253 enlisted men. All others were either killed, wounded or missing in action.

The Second Battalion of the regiment, now a veteran of two fierce battles, was relieved shortly after the First Battalion and withdrew to Rittershoffen to reorganize.

Once again the Rainbow infantrymen had stopped the Germans and the Germans had not thought it possible.

Months later the division captured a non-commissioned officer who was in the intelligence section of the German corps which opposed the Rainbow at Hatten.

"We were amazed the way your men fought," he said. "We always considered that you could defeat us only if you had a tremendous amount of tanks and armor. We believed that if we met you on equal terms we would have no difficulty.

"At Hatten, we had the armor and the artillery and the experienced men. Your men were inexperienced and lacked tank and artillery support. Our officers said it was the best infantry defense they ever saw."

A German tank officer who fought at Hatten and was later captured by the division had similar praise.

"I fought for three years on the Russian front and the fight at Hatten was the most fierce I was ever in," he said. "If you had had sufficient bazooka ammunition our tanks would have never been able to enter the town."

Now, however, the enemy had made two penetrations into our extended lines. Although each penetration had been contained, the Nazis continued to push. Up north the German army was being stopped and cut off. This, they reasoned, was the time when they might be able to smash through the thinly-held southern defense. Reserves which had been intended to exploit the Bulge breakthrough could be rushed south if a hole was made. Some of them were already on their way.

On the sixteenth of January the Germans launched a new attack aimed at the town of Sessenheim, about seven miles south of Hatten. For this attack the Germans had 1,000 young, fanatical troops, members of the German Seventh Parachute Division. These men were not jump-trained, but they were some of Germany's best. Many of the men were in their first engagement but the officers and non-commissioned officers were combat veterans. Supporting them were six to eight assault guns and, most important, six huge Tiger tanks, camouflaged with white paint.

Defending the towns of Sessenheim, Dengolsheim and Statmatten was Company B of the 232nd Infantry. North of Sessenheim were Companies C and I of the same regiment and to the south was Company K.

At eight o'clock on the morning of January 16 an enemy force of between 60 to 70 men attacked a Company B listening post in Dengolsheim and captured the Rainbow men in the town. Company B launched an attack from Sessenheim but was held up by heavy enemy fire. The company then joined with a platoon of Company A, elements of Company L and some tanks and retook the tiny town, capturing several prisoners.

Early the morning of the following day the Germans struck again. Roeschwoog north of Sessenheim was captured, Company B's outposts in Statmatten and Dengolsheim were driven in and the white-clad enemy infiltrated around Sessenheim and surrounded the men in the town.

Although cut off, the men of Company B continued to fight and meanwhile a counterattacking force composed of Companies A, L, D and Headquarters First Battalion of the 232nd Infantry and a section of tank destroyers and a platoon of tanks was being organized. When this force attacked it cleared the enemy out of the town, freed Company B, and captured more than 40 prisoners.

Despite this setback the Germans were determined and at 0700 on January 18 they again attacked the town and again Company B was surrounded. This time, however, the company fought its way through the ring of enemy and into a woods north of the community. Company K was also forced to withdraw into these woods in the face of a strong German attack early that afternoon.

In another counterattack which started about 1500 Company B with the First Battalion of the 410th Infantry and the First Battalion, 314th Infantry, reached Sessenheim again, but met strong



Relieved from the line, the infantry regiments moved into such battered, desolate towns as Vic-sur-Seille and there the other Rainbow units joined them.

opposition in Dengolsheim, the adjoining community. The company attempted to remain in the town during the night but in the darkness the Germans infiltrated its positions and it finally withdrew under heavy artillery, mortar and automatic fire through the woods to Schirrhoffen.

At dawn the next morning the Third Battalion of the 411th Infantry of the 103rd Division attempted to retake the town. The Battalion attacked out of a woods to the southeast. Aiding

in the attack were eight tanks of Company A of the 781st Tank Battalion.

The infantry left the woods first and crossed the snow-covered field toward the town. Just as they were about to enter it the tanks joined them and then the Germans opened up with the guns of their Tiger tanks, which had been dug into positions during the night.

The American tanks were equipped with 75 and 76-mm. guns and when they saw the huge German tanks they opened fire.

"I saw the shells bounce off the turrets," said one of the tank gunners. "They were dug in so far that was all we could see. Then they opened fire at us and one after another our tanks were hit. It was like shooting clay pigeons."

In the face of the tank fire the attack withdrew and although another attack was ordered for that afternoon it was cancelled when instructions were received that the 79th Division with Task Force Linden would withdraw to the Moder River near Haguenau and set up new defenses there.

The plan provided that immediately after leaving the main line of resistance the regiments of Task Force Linden were to be placed under the direct control of the 79th Division. The 232nd Infantry was to go into corps reserve with its command post at Bossendorf. The 222nd Infantry was to continue on the 79th's left flank and take up positions behind the Moder River and northwest of the city of Haguenau. The 313th Infantry of the 79th Division was to defend Hagueneau and the area on either side of it while the 242nd Infantry would be on its right, southeast of Haguenau. To the right of the 242nd Infantry would be the 315th Infantry of the 79th, occupying the right flank of the division. Left of the division was the 103rd Infantry Division and on the right the 36th Infantry Division.

At darkness on January 20 the withdrawal began. The weather conditions could not have been worse. The weather was cold, with the temperature below 20, and it was snowing heavily, but worst of all, the roads were covered with ice. They were so bad that it was difficult for a man to walk more than a few yards without falling down. Even when proceeding slowly, trucks and tanks and artillery pieces would start to slide and end up with a crash into a ditch or plunge over a bridge into a stream or ravine.

The men were tired from days and nights of almost constant moving and fighting and they hated to withdraw. They had suffered heavy casualties, but they didn't want to fall back.

"I say we ought to stay," said one man. "I don't like them Krauts to think they can make us go back a foot. We held them this long and we might as well keep fighting."

There wasn't much talk as the men moved back. There was a curse now and then as a man slipped and fell, but he would pick himself up and trudge on.

"I bet I fell ten times a mile," declared one man later.

The roads were lined with traffic and although it would have been an excellent opportunity for the Germans to attempt an attack the withdrawal apparently took them by surprise. A few times their patrols contacted the rear guard, but they made no effort to advance.

On January 21 the regiments moved into their positions and began to organize and strengthen their defenses. The 242nd Infantry took up a position with the Third Battalion on the left and the Second Battalion on the right and the remains of the First in reserve. The 222nd Infantry used exactly the same formation with the two battalions covering a front of 7,500 yards, three times the normal frontage for a regiment in defense.

Not until the morning of January 23 did the 222nd make contact with the enemy. Throughout that day and the next, however, patrols reported that the enemy was building up strength across the river. Later it was learned that the enemy was moving 2,000 men into position for an attack. These men were from three units. There were two battalions from the 47th Volksgrenadier Division, three battalions from the 25th Panzer Grenadier Division and three battalions from the Parachute Division.

Below Haguenau a slightly smaller force, estimated later at 1,200, was moving in opposite the 242nd Infantry. This force was composed of two battalions from the 21st SS Regiment and two battalions from the 22nd SS Regiment, both units part of the 10th SS Panzer Division, one of the crack outfits in Hitler's army. As armored SS troops these men had the priority of equipment as well as manpower and they had been regrouping for more than a month.

Haguenau was the objective for these two forces, and it was an important one. The town itself jutted out as a salient into the German lines. Capture of the city and a successful breakthrough would make the excellent road net and rolling tank country to the south available to the Germans and would force a withdrawal to the Vosges.

Indeed, the withdrawal was already being considered and plans were being made. Had it not been for the brilliant defenses of the 222nd and

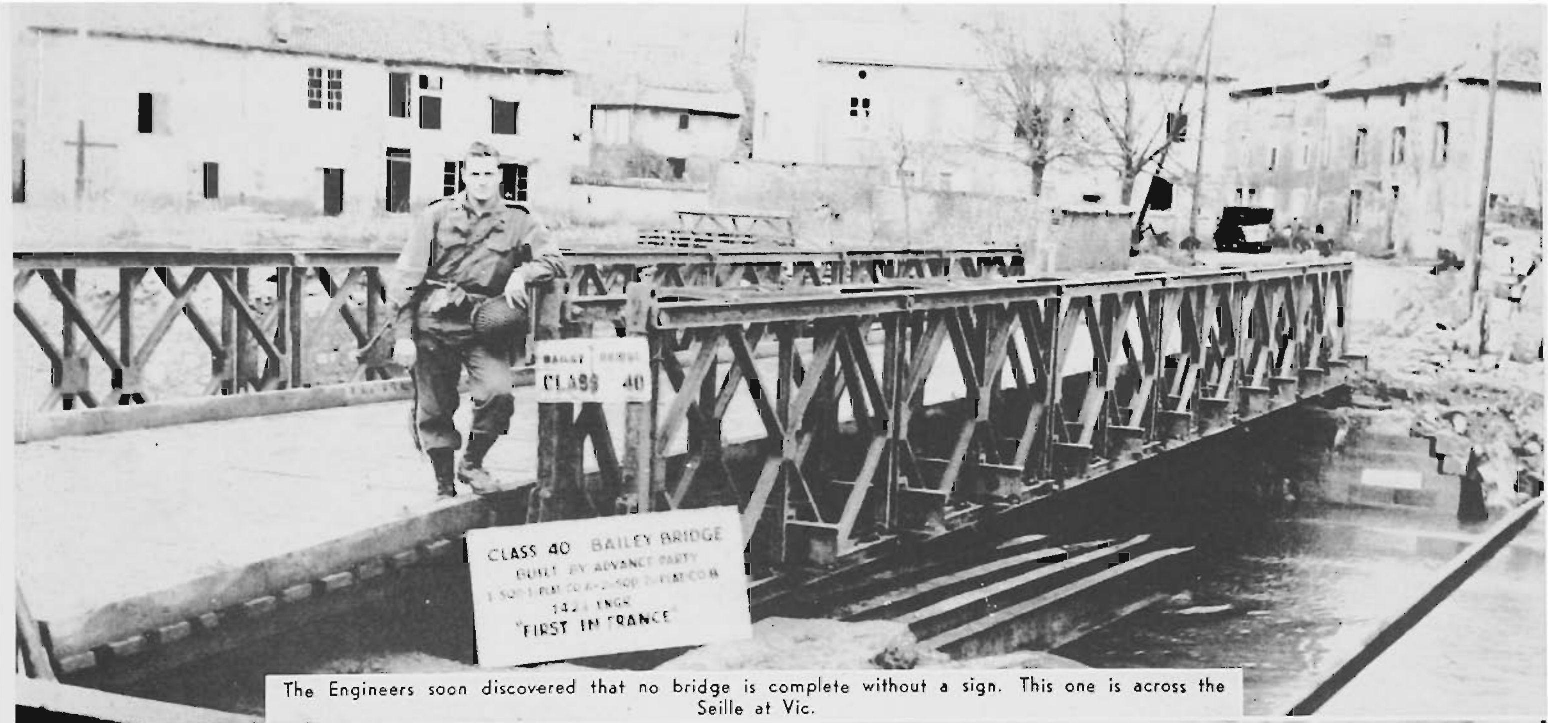
242nd Infantry Regiments these orders would have been issued.

It snowed again on January 24 and it was now a foot deep on the ground. The temperature was well below freezing and many of the men occupied foxholes half filled with water and with a crust of ice forming on them.

At 1800 the Germans began shelling the town of Schweighausen on the



A young doughboy discusses the merits of his sniper's rifle with an admiring friend who has seen him use it in action.

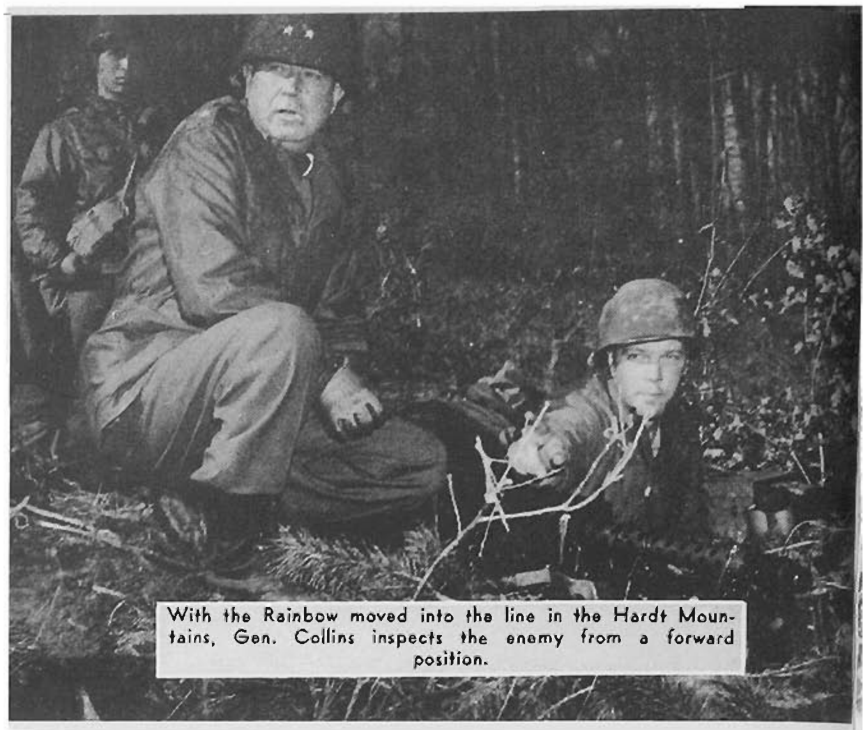


The Engineers soon discovered that no bridge is complete without a sign. This one is across the Seille at Vic.



Flanked by General Linden and his regimental commanders, General Collins addresses heroes of Task Force Linden.

222nd's right flank and then shifted the fire to Neubourg on the left. The shelling continued for nearly two hours, then there was a lull and it began again. With it this time came the German infantry. The first wave bridged the narrow Moder with wooden planks and struck our positions simultaneously at Schweighausen, Bois d'Ohlungen and Neubourg. As the attack hit, the defenders opened fire with small arms, machine guns, mortars and artillery. The enemy retreated, reorganized and then came on again and this time was able to make a penetration between Companies E and K. The left of Company E's positions were overrun and although the Germans were behind them in the forest they remained in their positions and continued to fight. Not until they had exhausted all but 35 rounds of ammunition did they start



With the Rainbow moved into the line in the Hardt Mountains, Gen. Collins inspects the enemy from a forward position.



Light housekeeping in a foxhole with everything available from hand grenades to PX rations. A German shelter half contributes to the camouflage.



A hole for a home, a K ration and the enemy 200 yards away.

to withdraw and then they infiltrated back through the Germans to the regimental lines. Approximately half the men of the company were casualties. On the left of Company E, the men of Company K were forced to withdraw almost into Neubourg and on the right Company F fell back into Schweighausen.

For 24 hours the battle raged and although the enemy broke through the line into the woods behind it, never were they able to break out of the woods and never were they able to capture the towns of Neubourg and Schweighausen.

Enemy casualties were enormous. Wave after wave was cut down as they crossed the Moder and artillery rained on them in the woods.

Shortly after midnight the First Battalion was moved into the fight in the vicinity of Uhlwiller to





The end of a successful raid into enemy territory—three prisoners en route to a PW cage

aid Company G in containing the enemy in the woods. The First and Third Battalions of the 314th Infantry were ordered into the 222nd Infantry area to aid in protecting Neubourg and Schweighausen.

Meanwhile, the 232nd Infantry had been ordered up from Corps reserve to join in the attack. Against light opposition the Second Battalion of that regiment moved into Schweighausen the afternoon of the 25th and the other two battalions took up positions on the edge of the Bois D'Ohlungen.

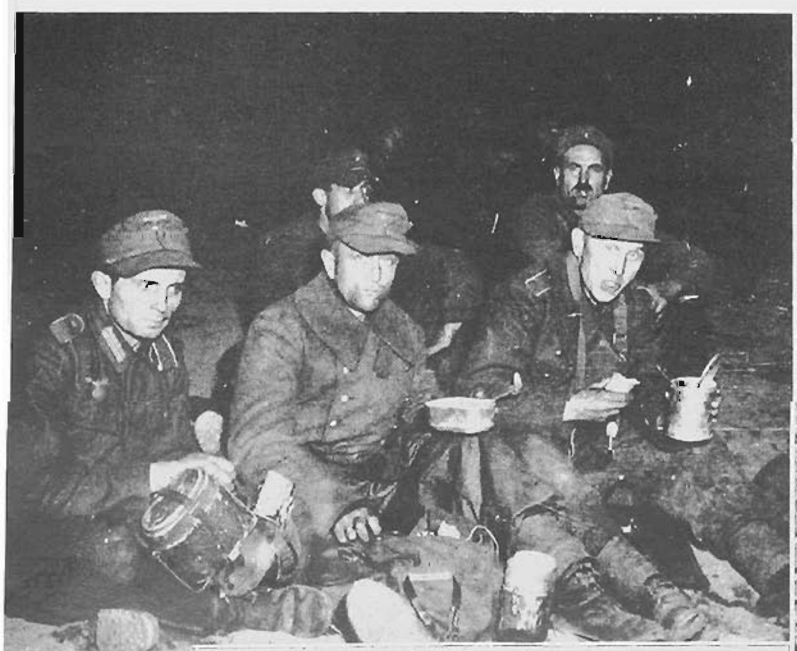
By now the German attack was completely contained and enemy casualties had been so great that the Germans were forced to withdraw. On January 27 an attack was launched through the Bois D'Ohlungen but there was no opposition. The enemy had retreated during the night.



Hot chow on a cold day is a treat which sends a medic back for seconds.



A soldier washes his own at an engineer water point



Nazi supermen munch their own sausage and canned ra-





Awaiting the order for the Division's first attack

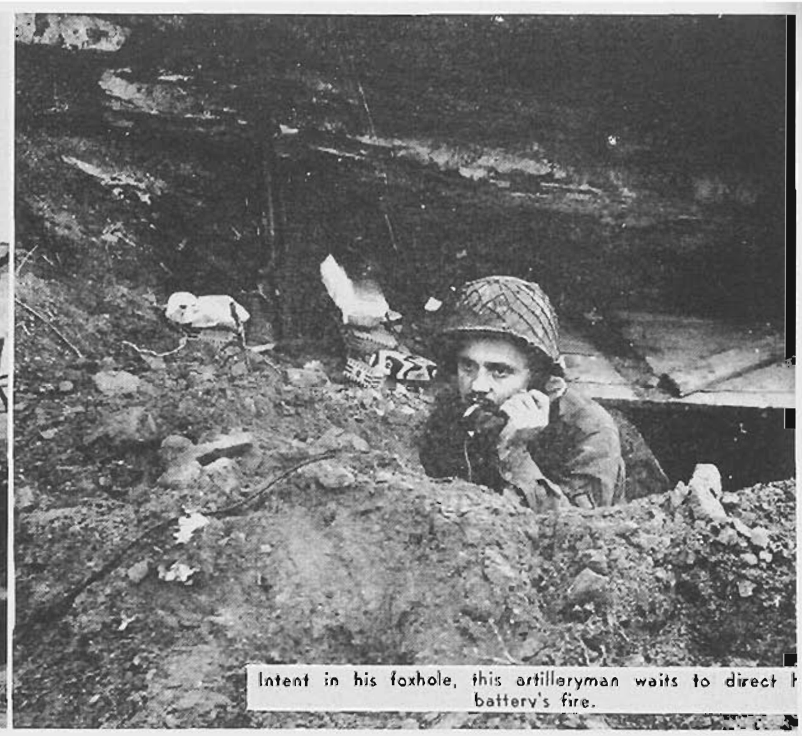
When the fight was over it was estimated that the enemy had lost 800 dead, 112 prisoners and an unknown number of wounded. Two officers and 32 enlisted men of the 222nd were killed and 6 officers and 114 enlisted men wounded.

Meanwhile the 242nd Infantry had been waging a fierce and successful battle against the SS troops of the 10th Panzer Division.

The attack on the 242nd began just before dawn on the 25th of January when the enemy



Wimmenau with its sticky mud is soon to be left behind



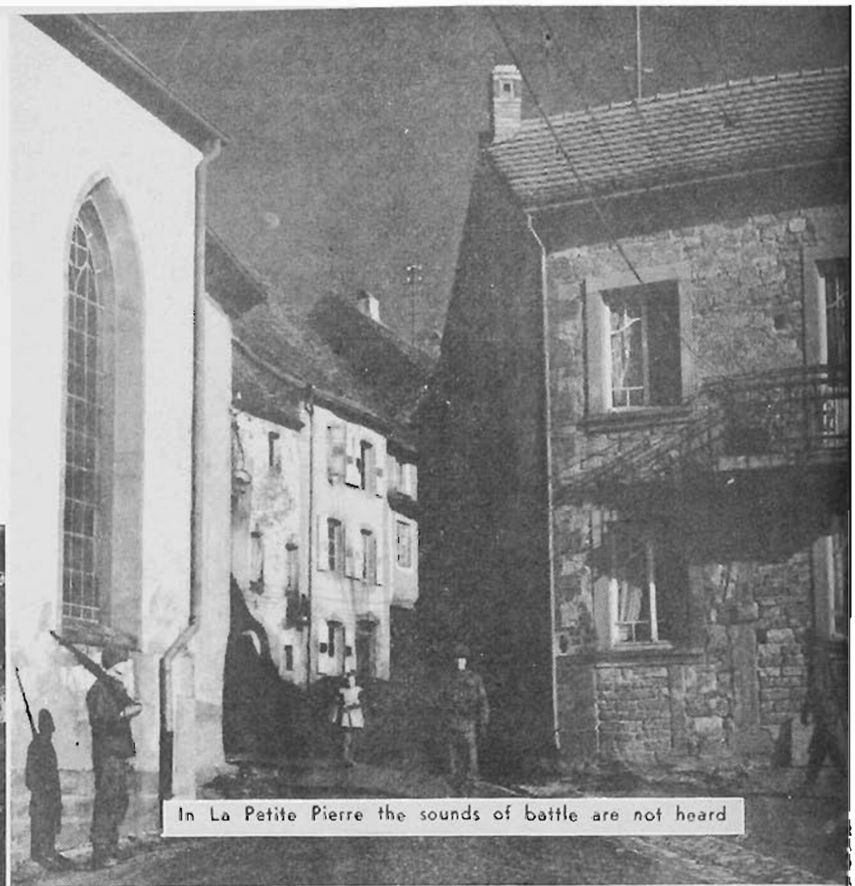
Intent in his foxhole, this artilleryman waits to direct h battery's fire.

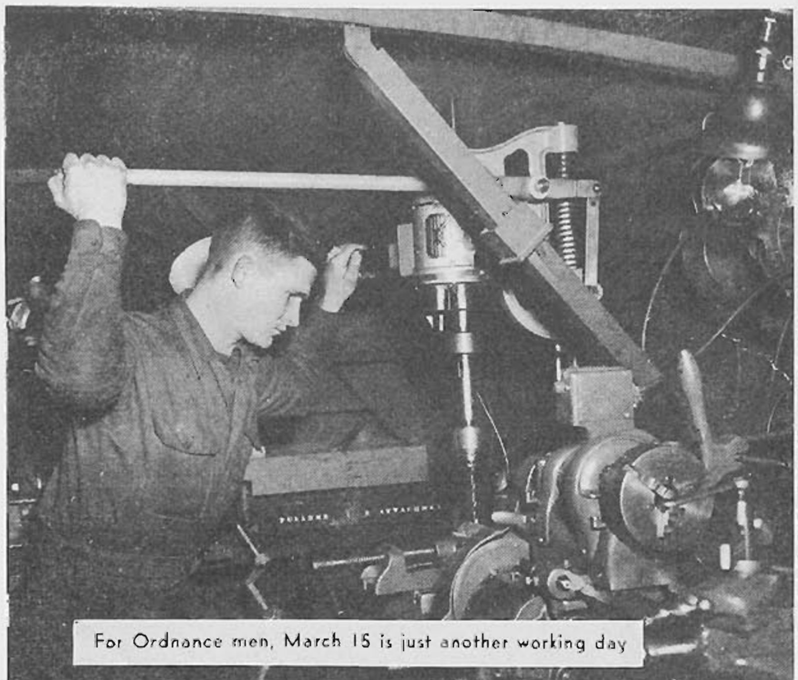


At the bottom of the hill is Reipertsweiler, battered and smelling. Ahead, smoke from bursting artillery mars the country landscape.

smashed into the areas occupied by Companies K and I and managed to break through.

Throughout the day the battle continued. The brunt of the enemy attack was against the Third Battalion on the left of the regimental sector and fighting centered around a factory just across the Moder River which the enemy had captured. At 1600 that afternoon Company L, supported by tanks launched an attack to drive the enemy back


In La Petite Pierre the sounds of battle are not heard


For Ordnance men, March 15 is just another working day


The infantry has started the attack. Loaded with bazooka ammunition the doughs move into Reipertsweiller, long in the middle of no-man's land.



His mule loaded, he's ready to move out with his mascot.

across the river. In the face of this attack the enemy broke and ran and fire from the tanks and infantrymen cut them down as they raced for the river. They poured out of the factory and back across the Moder with the infantry in pursuit. Here, however, the Germans had tank support and the Rainbowmen withdrew to their original positions.

Once again the enemy had been defeated and



Mules, trucks and jeeps all wait to move forward to support the attack.



Briefed and loaded with ammunition and grenades, these men of the 222d tensely wait for instructions to join in the assault.



Their faces grim, Rainbow doughs move ahead through the woods along a narrow lane past a mine field. Some have their fingers on the triggers of their rifles. Near them is the enemy. Unseen are the deadly Shu mines which may be hidden beneath the leaves.



Ahead there is the sound of firing and one of the first groups of prisoners is marched to the rear past men waiting to join in the fight. These Germans are frightened, but glad the war is over for them. The attack, they said, was a complete surprise.





again his casualties were high. It is estimated that Third Battalion killed 400 Germans, 131 of them falling before the 1st platoon of Company K alone.

Thus it was that the Rainbow infantrymen repulsed what later proved to be the last offensive action ever launched by the German army on the western front. The German had hoped to regain Alsace, but he had failed. Plans for the withdrawal to the Vosges positions were put aside and never did the enemy take Haguenau.

For one month the Rainbowmen had been fighting bitter battles. They had lost equipment and they had lost 50 per cent of their riflemen and they were tired. Now came a welcome order to withdraw to the vicinity of Chateau Salins, near Nancy, for a period of reorganization during which it was hoped that the remainder of the division would arrive.

On January 27 the regiments were relieved from their positions on the line, again placed under the control of Brigadier General Linden, and they moved 60 miles back to a position in Seventh Army reserve.

By this time the balance of the Rainbow had arrived in France, having landed in Marseilles on January 18, and were now at Command Post 2 drawing equipment and preparing to move north to join the regiments. CP 2 had not changed since the infantrymen had been there. It was just as bare and just as windy and even a little colder. Everyone was anxious to leave.

The towns into which the infantrymen now moved were battered shambles in a war-shattered area. There had been heavy fighting there and the majority of the tiny communities were deserted or inhabited by only a few old people and young children. In some towns not a single building had a roof or a pane of glass in a window.

Nevertheless it was better than living in foxholes and sleeping on the ground and the men went to work to make themselves as comfortable as possible. Digging among the ruins they found stoves. They boarded up the windows and turned the town taverns into mess halls. They washed their clothes or perhaps had someone wash them for them. For the first time in a month they were warm and dry and able to eat hot meals. Just sleeping on the floor in a warm room was a luxury.

Now replacements began coming in and a training program got under way. Emphasis was placed upon tactics of small units and tank and infantry coordination. Recent experience had shown the importance of these things. The war seemed very close and the men were serious about the training.

They were busy all the time. Training was conducted on the basis of an eight-hour day, seven days a week, with a minimum of 16 hours spent in night operations. In the free time there were movies or shows which the men put on themselves or perhaps an opportunity to get a ride to a nearby shower unit for a bath. The last was probably the most welcome.

By February 10 the balance of the Division had arrived in the area and they too joined in the training program. The 42nd Infantry Division was now officially in France. Task Force Linden had been dissolved on February 6.

On February 14 the Rainbow received its orders to move into the front lines and relieve the 45th Infantry Division in an area near Wimmenau and Wingen in the Hardt Mountains northwest of Haguenau. Two days later the Division began its move into the lines and it was completed without incident. At midnight on February 17 the command of the sector passed to Major General Harry J. Collins and the Rainbow Division began its first day of combat as a unit in World War II.

The Division had been assigned a defensive mission. The 222nd Infantry was assigned the left of the Rainbow sector and the 232nd was placed on the right. The 242nd Infantry was put in reserve. On the 232nd front the Second Battalion was placed on the right, the Third Battalion was assigned the center and the First Battalion was put on the left. The 222nd Infantry placed the First Battalion on right, the Second in the center and the Third on the left.

The entire Division front covered a distance of approximately eight miles, with this divided equally between the 222nd and the 232nd regiments. On the right of the Division was the 103rd Infantry Division and on the left was the 100th Infantry Division. On the Moder River the infantrymen had fought on the right of the 103rd Division. Now they were on its left.

Attached to the Division were the 645th Tank Destroyer Battalion, the 191st Tank Battalion, the 83rd Chemical Battalion (minus Companies A and B) and the 69th Armored Field Artillery Battalion. In direct support was the 431st AAA AW Bn., which was to remain with the Rainbow throughout its period of combat and become almost a regular unit of the Division.

Immediately upon moving into the area the Division began a vigorous program of patrolling and raids to determine enemy strength, dispositions and identifications. It also had another purpose. General Collins wanted his Division to be aggressive. He was afraid another period of defensive

fighting would have a bad psychological effect upon the men.

Now the front line infantrymen set up housekeeping in foxholes, although the majority of other men lived in houses, billetted in French homes or in buildings which had been evacuated.

Opposing the Division when it moved into the line was the German 6th Mountain Division, an experienced unit which had been stationed for some time in Norway and was trained in fighting in the woody and mountainous terrain which the Rainbow was now occupying.

Although the Division was superior in numbers, the enemy had well prepared defenses and had laid thousands of mines along the front. The majority of these were Shu-mines, a small mine intended for use against personnel which could be set off by the weight of a man. The explosion of such a mine would usually smash a foot or the lower part of the leg. Patrols came to have more respect for them than for enemy fire.

The Division's defenses also included mine fields and before the front line foxholes men rigged up booby traps and trip wires to ensnare enemy patrols.

Only a few patrols ever crossed into Rainbow territory, however. For the most part the enemy was kept too busy with our excursions into his lines to be making any attacks himself. As an indication of the amount of patrol activity conducted by the Rainbow, from February 18 to February 28 the infantry carried out a total of 139 reconnaissance and combat patrols. These patrols ranged over the entire Division front, penetrating the enemy lines up to a distance of 2,000 yards and determined the strength and location of enemy installations.

Of the total number of patrols, 32 reconnaissance patrols and 34 combat patrols were conducted by the 222nd Infantry Regiment. These patrols killed 32 Germans, wounded four and captured four prisoners. Their losses were five men killed, 19 wounded and two men missing, with the majority of casualties caused by enemy mines.

The 232nd Infantry conducted 38 reconnaissance patrols and 26 combat patrols during the same 11-day period. In these patrols two men were killed, 16 wounded and two were missing, while the known enemy casualties totaled 12 dead and three wounded. Here again the majority of the regiment's casualties were caused by mines.

The 242nd Infantry conducted nine combat patrols during the same period in which it killed 30 Germans, wounded 15 and captured four. Its losses totaled four men killed, 10 wounded and seven missing.

Supporting the patrols were the Division Artillery and elements of the 83rd Chemical Mortar Battalion, which would rain down death upon the enemy when he opened fire upon our patrols.

"The artillery was so bad that we would rather retreat than fire upon your men when we saw them coming," a prisoner said. "It got so bad that we were afraid to fire, for if a machine gun opened up you would locate the position and blast it with your terrible artillery."

During this time the artillery began its first use of the then secret shells which contained a radar device in the nose and would explode at a pre-determined distance above the ground.

The constant patrolling and the shell fire shattered the morale of the Germans and several enemy deserted their units and surrendered to our troops. To encourage this tendency to quit, the Division on February 28 conducted a psychological warfare program which included a 15-minute preparation by artillery and mortars and then the firing of leaflets urging the enemy to surrender and a broadcast to them to give up.

In addition to the front line activity the Division also conducted an extensive training program throughout the period it remained in its defensive positions in the mountains. The 242nd Infantry trained on an eight-hour day, seven-day week basis. At the Division administrative center a five-day training program was conducted for all reinforcements received. A school for snipers was conducted and company officers and non-commissioned officers received instruction from the Division Artillery on the methods of adjusting artillery fire.

At the same time units were learning how to make themselves as comfortable as possible even though men were living in dugouts and foxholes. Most companies served a hot breakfast and a hot supper and usually hot soup to supplement a cold dinner. All clothing became community property and shower units and clothing exchange centers were established immediately behind the front lines. Men would go back to them, shower and turn in their dirty uniforms for clean ones. All sox were turned into a company pool where they were washed by the men on KP and clean sox were brought up each day with the food. Mess kits were also turned in and were passed out for each meal and then taken back to the rear and washed. Even PX rations occasionally made their way into the front lines and twice each man was given a couple of cans of beer. There were also movies shown in some barn or battered theater.

Now, too, the weather was improving and although there was plenty of rain and mud it was at least getting warmer.



Smoke from artillery shells drifts upward from the tiny community of Melch in front of the Division lines. Reports that the town was being used as a command post by Germans brought down the concentrated fire of Division Artillery. No building was spared.





Into Melch move the doughboys, cautiously advancing, taking no chances that Germans may be still alive and hiding in the rubble. There was no resistance in the town. All the enemy was either killed in the shelling or withdrew before our advance.

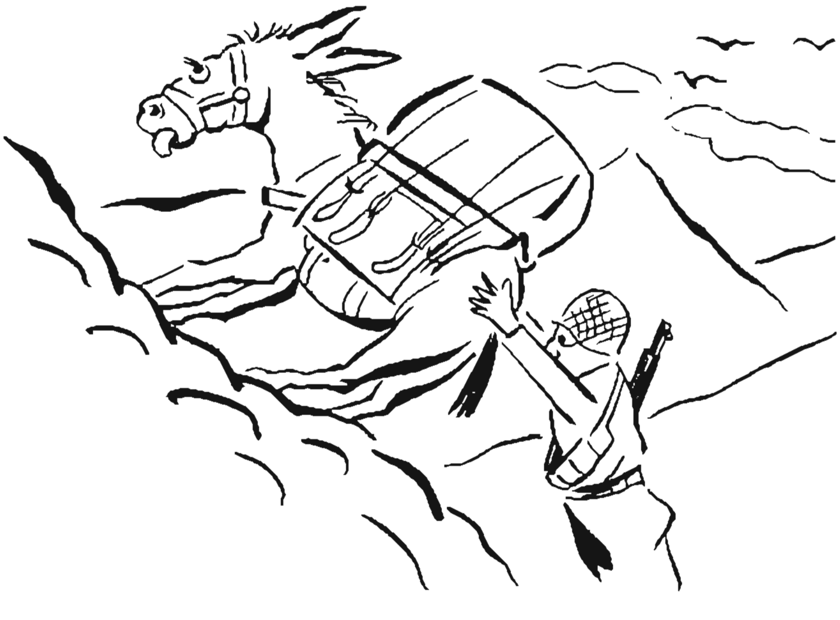


The men began to chafe at the constant patrolling, the smashes into the German line and then the withdrawal. They felt they had the power to drive on through and they wanted to get started.

"This is a silly damn way to fight a war," grumbled one man as he started out on patrol. "We just go out and chase the Krauts off that hill and then come on back. We could have them half way to Berlin if we kept on going."

In the north the Allies had started their attack and the Germans were on the run. By the first week in March the Third Army was moving and the Seventh was sure to start pushing soon.

On March 10 the 242nd Infantry was ordered to replace the 222nd Infantry on the line and the following day the relief began. It was completed by 0730 on March 12. In this relief the First Battalion of the 242nd took over the positions of the Second Battalion, 222nd Infantry, and the Second





These men of the 242d Infantry found that both mules and jeeps required pushing and pulling to get them through the mountains.

Battalion of the 242nd relieved the First Battalion of the 222nd while the two Third Battalions exchanged positions. The 242nd Infantry immediately resumed the aggressive patrolling which had characterized the defense of the 222nd Regiment.

Meanwhile, the enemy had changed his forces opposing the division. On the night of February 27 Germans laid down a heavy concentration of artillery and mortar fire and under this the elements of the 6th Mountain Division were withdrawn and replaced by the 221st Volksgrenadier Regiment. In the brief period this unit had been in the line it had come to respect the Rainbow and fear its patrols and raids.

"Is your Division a part of Roosevelt's SS?" asked one German when captured.

The remark was passed along and men kidded each other about being in the Rainbow SS.

On March 13 the Division received instructions that the Seventh Army would advance on the 15th and preparations were begun for the attack—the first attack by the Rainbow Division in World War II and one which was not going to stop until the Division reached the border of Austria at the end of the war.

The original mission of the Division in that first assault was to capture the high ground in the vicinity of the town of Schonau and to uncover the Siegfried Line. It was then to push on and smash through the West Wall.

The formation for the attack was with the 232nd Infantry outposting the entire Rainbow main line of resistance from the boundary of the 103rd In-

Through the Maginot Line, doughs of the 1st Battalion, 232d Infantry, head for Germany, only two kilometers past this town.



fantry Division on the right to the sector of the 117th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron, which had been assigned to the Division and placed on the left flank.

The 222nd Infantry was to assemble in the vicinity of Lichtenberg, pass through the 232nd Infantry and attack through the mountains to the northeast to clear the vital Bitche-Haguenau road and continue its drive to reach the high ground north of the Fallenstein River, while the 242nd Infantry was to clear the Bitche-Haguenau road in its zone and then continue the attack to capture the high ground north of Ludwigswinkle. The 117th Cavalry was directed to support the attack by fire initially until uncovered by the 242nd Infantry and then conduct reconnaissance in its zone with particular attention to the west flank and the routes toward Pirmasens, the largest city in the area.

Also formed for the attack was Task Force Coleman, commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Frederick W. Coleman III, which consisted of the Second Battalion, 232nd Infantry, motorized, a platoon of tanks, a platoon of tank destroyers, an engineer platoon, a battery of armored field artillery and a platoon from the 42nd Reconnaissance Troop. It was organized as a fast moving striking force prepared to exploit any breakthrough.

Now came the time when all the patrolling and raids were to pay dividends. The continual thrusts into the enemy line had determined the strong points and the weaknesses in his defense. They had also determined the locations of the mine

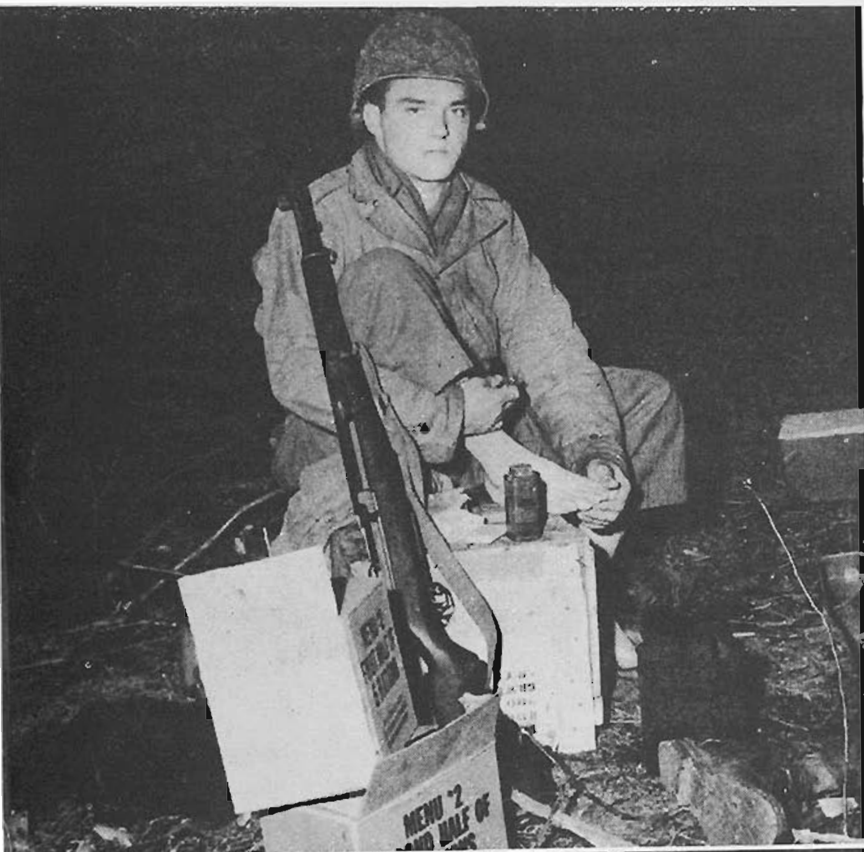
The 3d Battalion, 232d Infantry, marches past the stone marker in the foreground which is on the border of Nazi Germany.

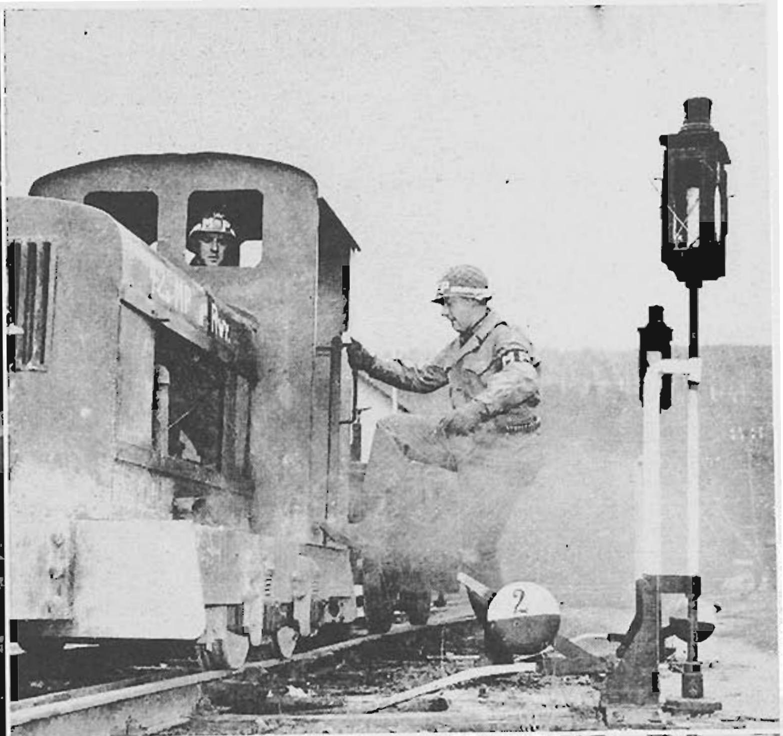




fields. Now when the Division advanced it would be into an area which it knew well and it would move over routes which its patrols had charted. That constant patrolling, unpleasant as it had been, was to be repaid in lives saved.

Upper left: Silver Stars reward a 70-hour patrol into enemy lines
Center left: The entry into Germany tired the feet of this sad-faced doughboy.
Center right: The attack brought prisoners. MPs hauled them on a captured railroad.
Lower left: The spoils of war—a Nazi flag, propaganda pamphlets and an apple.
Lower right: Always in support is the artillery, here firing from a farmyard.











The drive through the mountains brought its casualties. Close behind the infantry came the men of the 122d Medical Battalion with plasma and first aid for the wounded, saving many lives.



At a collecting station medics carefully mix plasma and distilled water prior to administering it to a seriously wounded infantryman.



One of the greatest problems which faced the Division was supply. The advance was to be made into an area in which there were few, if any, roads, Those which existed would be either mined or blocked with craters and fallen trees. This difficulty had long been foreseen and on the 26th of February the 513 Mule Pack Company had been assigned to the Division. Infantrymen had been trained in mule-skinning and included in the preparations for the attack was the loading of equipment on the mules.

The area over which the Division was to advance was probably the most rugged on the entire front. It was entirely wooded and the mountains were high and steep. Just walking through them on a hiking trip would be difficult. To fight through them loaded down with weapons and ammunition and radios and medical equipment was a task which would require the utmost in courage and physical stamina.

At 0645 on March 15 the Rainbow attack began and the men of the 242nd and 222nd Infantry Regiments smashed into the prepared defenses in the Hardt Mountains in an assault which began without an artillery preparation and which took the Germans by complete surprise.

After moving forward with almost no initial opposition the 222nd Infantry met heavy resistance





In his left hand is plasma, in his other a cigarette for his patient

about 2,000 yards in front of its former lines at Hills 384 and 402. For five hours a stubborn enemy held up the Regiment's advance but a flanking maneuver and an assault finally overcame the enemy and the advance continued. The 242nd Infantry encountered extensive minefields and also received small arms and mortar fire which slowed its advance in the early stages of the attack. It continued to move ahead steadily, however, and by nightfall had captured the town of Baerenthal. Both regiments made total gains of approximately 6,000 yards that first day. When uncovered by the 242nd Infantry, dismounted elements of the 117th Cavalry advanced 1,000 yards on the Division's left flank but mounted units were unable to push forward as all roads were blocked by mines, trees or craters.

On March 16, the 222nd Infantry advanced against heavy small arms, mortar and artillery fire and cut the Bitche-Niederbronn road. Early the same day the First Battalion of the 242nd Infantry, which was in the rear of the Regiment's advance, was attacked by enemy who attempted to cut it off. The attack was repulsed with heavy enemy casualties and approximately 115 prisoners were captured. The attack cut communications, but they were restored quickly and by 0800 all units of the regiment had resumed the advance. During the day the enemy resistance was light, but progress was delayed by the mountainous, densely wooded terrain and by mines and booby traps. Despite this, the Third Battalion of the 242nd Infantry crossed the Bitche-Niederbronn road late that afternoon, the Second Battalion captured the high ground south of the road and the First Battalion seized the dominating terrain south of Mouterhouse.

Meanwhile, the 232nd Infantry on March 15 outposted the entire division front and at the start of the attack Company B with a platoon of Company A had jumped off and captured Hill 302, 500 yards northeast of Reipertswiller, a shambles of a town which was located in the middle of what had been no-man's land. Enemy dead had laid unburied amid the rubble for several weeks and the town gave off a stench that few men will forget. With the town and the hill behind it captured, the same force then pushed on and took surrounding high ground.

On March 16 the units outposting the front were assembled and the 232nd Infantry advanced in the center of the Division sector with the 222nd Infantry on its right and the 242nd on the left. Composed of only two battalions, the Second having been assigned to Task Force Coleman, the regiment advanced with them abreast and captured all high ground south of Baerenthal before nightfall.

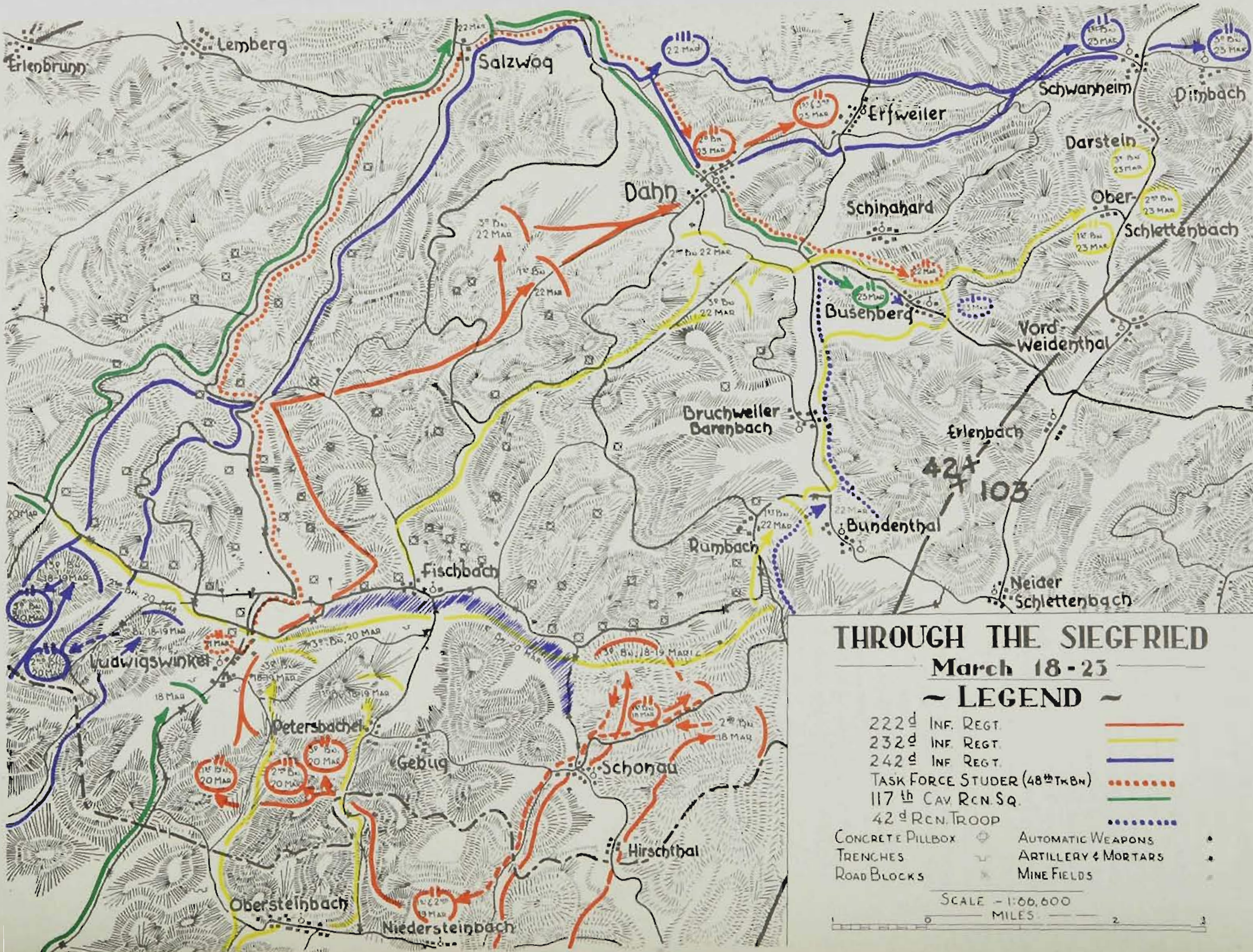
On the Division's left flank efforts continued to clear roads of mines so that the 117th Cavalry could strike northward toward Pirmasens. To accomplish this Task Force Coleman was directed to attack and clear the enemy from the Division's left flank to the Althorn-Mouterhouse road. Although it met no enemy resistance, the task force was able to advance only very slowly through the dense woods and mountains and it was not until the following day that the unit reached the town of Mouterhouse. Meanwhile, A and B troops of the cavalry unit attacked northeast to Mouterhouse on foot. Patrols entered the town, but were met by small arms and mortar fire and withdrew to high ground southeast of the city.

On the following day, March 17, all regiments continued their advances and scored gains of up to 10,000 yards against little enemy opposition but over terrain which demanded the maximum physical effort of every man.

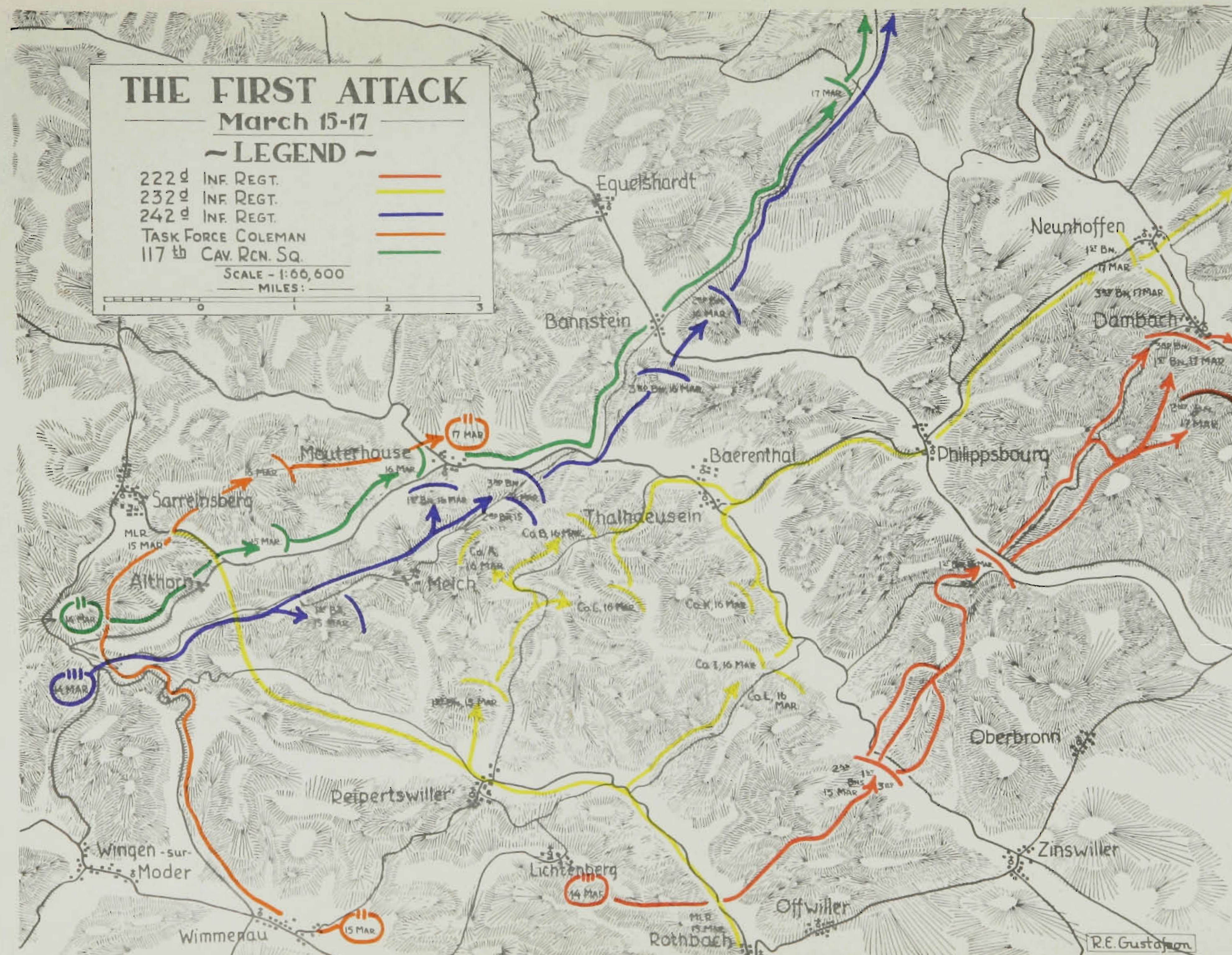
This battle through the forest and mountains was an engineer's war as well as an infantryman's and men of the 142nd Engineer (Combat) Battalion, supported by other engineer units were working feverishly to clear roads of mines, haul away or saw off the hundreds of huge trees that the retreating Germans had felled across every road and trail, and to fill in craters. These roads were desperately needed for supplies and over them the artillery must advance.

As the 232nd Infantry cleared the road from Reipertswiller to Baerenthal, which was to be the main supply line for the Division, the engineers repaired it and on the 17th, traffic was rolling forward on this narrow, twisting trail. The fact it had been cleared and patched so quickly was an engineering miracle.

By nightfall on the third day of the advance the 222nd Infantry had pushed forward more than 5,000 yards to the high ground overlooking the town of Dambach and had taken its initial objective. Just to the left of the 222nd the 232nd Infantry had captured the town of Neunhoffen and two companies from that regiment entered and seized Dambach. At daylight on the same day Company C of the 242nd Infantry advanced into Mouterhouse prepared to engage the enemy who had been defending the town but they met no opposition. In the town of Bannstein the Second Battalion of the same regiment met opposition from an enemy rear guard, but captured the town and 16 prisoners. The entire regiment then continued the advance and by 2000 it reached its initial objective in the vicinity of Stuzelbronn.



THROUGH THE SIEGFRIED
March 18-23
~ LEGEND ~
222d Inf. Regt.
232d Inf. Regt.
242d Inf. Regt.
Task Force Studer (48th Tk Bn)
117th Cav. Rcn. Sq.
42d Rcn. Troop
Concrete Pillbox
Automatic Weapons
Trenches
Artillery & Mortars
Road Blocks
Mine Fields
Scale - 1:66,600
Miles
Erlenbrunn
Lemberg
Salzwog
Erfweiler
Schwanheim
Dimbach
Darstein
Dahn
Schinahard
Ober-Schlettenbach
Busenberg
Vord-Weidenthal
Bruchweiler Barenbach
Erlenbach
Bundenthal
Rumbach
Fischbach
Neider Schlettenbach
Ludwigswinkel
Petersbachel
Gebug
Schonau
Hirschthal
Obersteinbach
Niedersteinbach
424
103


THE FIRST ATTACK
March 15-17
~ LEGEND ~
222d INF. REGT.
232d INF. REGT.
242d INF. REGT.
TASK FORCE COLEMAN
117th CAV. RCN. SQ.
SCALE - 1:66,600
MILES:
1 0 1 2 3
Equelshardt
Bannstein
Neunhoffen
Dambach
Philippsbourg
Baerenthal
Mouterhouse
Sarreinsberg
Althorn
Meich
Thalhaeusein
Oberbronn
Reipertswiller
Wingen -sur- Moder
Lichtenberg
Offwiller
Zinswiller
Wimmenau
Rothbach
R.E. Gustafson

Following the clearing of Mouterhouse and the removal of mines from the Mouterhouse road the 117th Cavalry advanced up the road to the Nuenhollen, Dambach, Windstein road, where it was held up by blown bridge and road blocks.

On March 18 the Division again began its attack at 0500 with the weary doughboys once more clawing their way up mountains and along ridges. On this day they were to score two firsts. They were to be the first unit of the VI Corps into Germany and the first unit of the Corps to reach the Siegfried Line. Considering that the advance the Division had made was through the most rugged terrain confronting any unit in the entire army, this was indeed a remarkable feat.

The first unit of the Division across the German border was the First Platoon of C Troop of the 117th Cavalry which entered Germany as it reconnoitered the route in front of the 242nd Infantry on the way to Ludwigswinkel, key position in the Siegfried Line. Which infantry unit was the first across the border is a matter of dispute. The honor is claimed by both the Third Battalions of the 242nd and the 232nd Infantry Regiments. On the basis of their own claims the Third Battalion of the 232nd won the race by four minutes for it reported crossing the German border near the town of Husselkopf at 1434 while the corresponding battalion of the 242nd says it crossed the border at 1438. Meanwhile the 222nd Infantry was making an advance of 10,000 yards on the right and it seized the high ground northeast of Schonau.

The other two regiments pushed on to the Siegfried Line and took up positions with the 242nd Infantry to the left or west of the town of Ludwigswinkel and the 232nd Infantry to the east.

Snaking across the Division front now was the narrow Saarbach River and back of it the huge concrete and steel fortifications of the Siegfried Line. Up until now the Division advance had been rapid, but here were fortifications that the Germans had been years in building. Each fort linked with another, bands of fire crossed and recrossed forming walls of steel against which an attacker must advance. Just a glance at the country showed how elaborate had been the preparations for attack. The forts themselves were well camouflaged and concealed but before them whole hillsides of trees had been leveled in order to give perfect fields of fire and the fallen trees had been left interlaced before the fortifications so as to make the approach almost impossible. To look at the network of defenses as they were revealed on intelligence maps it would seem impossible that any force would be able to get through that wall.

Yet the Rainbow had an excellent chance of smashing that defense quickly. The enemy had been falling back in disorder before the Division's swift advance. Whenever he had tried to fight, the Division had swept around him, forcing him to either flee or surrender. He was demoralized and he was frightened. Also the men who manned the fortifications were inferior troops. They were organized into special fortress battalions made up of old men and young boys. They had been trained briefly for one specific job, but if they could be hit and hit hard they would not stay at their posts. Once they left their pillboxes the Division would be able to swoop down on them with tanks and tank destroyers and cut them off and infantrymen could then go to work and round them up.

Across the Saarbach River when the Division arrived were two small bridges, both of them intact. Seeking to capture these bridges and take advantage of the enemy's confusion, an attack was launched against them at 0400 on March 19. These two bridges, both commanded by fire from huge Siegfried fortifications, led to the only good road northward through the Division zone.

Selected for the task of assaulting the bridges were F and G Companies of the 232nd Infantry Regiment supported by a platoon of the 142nd Engineers. Advancing under intense small arms and automatic weapons fire from positions in the Siegfried, the first and second platoons of Company G crossed the east bridge shortly after 0400 and took up positions on the north side. Two platoons of Company F seized the west bridge. At 0930 the enemy counterattacked Company G with a superior force and the two platoons, after suffering serious casualties, withdrew to positions south of the bridge. Some of the men withdrew underneath the structure and were there when it was blown by the enemy. All were killed.

Despite intense fire and an enemy counterattack, Company F maintained its bridgehead throughout the day, but at 0430 on March 20 a superior enemy force counterattacked the company, inflicted heavy casualties, and drove it back across the river.

While the battle for the bridgehead still raged, other units of the Division closed into position and plans were made for a more deliberate attack on the fortifications. Patrols sent out to probe weak spots in the line met with stiff opposition and received enemy small arms, mortar and artillery fire and obtained little information. Enemy artillery also fell on battalion and regimental command posts.

Apparently the enemy was going to try to put up a fight, even though he was in a most precarious position. North of the Seventh Army the

Third Army had broken through the Siegfried and was racing for the Rhine. Armored units were turning south and would soon be able to smash into the rear of the fortifications. It is doubtful if the enemy knew this, however. He was disorganized and communications had been almost completely destroyed.

On the afternoon of March 20 the order for the attack of the Siegfried Line was issued. It provided for the 232nd Infantry to outpost the entire Division front with three battalions on the line. From assembly areas in the vicinity of Niedersteinback the 222nd Infantry was to attack through the 232nd Infantry in the vicinity of Ludwigswinkel and secure four hills across the Saarbach River, hold each with the equivalent of one rifle company, and







then continue the advance to seize the secondary Siegfried defenses. The 242nd Infantry was given a mission of attacking through the 232nd to the west of Ludwigswinkel at a reported weak spot in the line, and then to proceed northward to capture the secondary defenses. If necessary, the 242nd Infantry was to swing in a semicircle to the east to assault the West Wall pillboxes from the rear in the 222nd Infantry area should that regiment be unable to overcome them. As it developed, this was not necessary. The attack was to be opened by the 222nd Infantry on March 21 and to be followed by the 242nd Infantry just prior to dawn the following morning.

At 1900 on March 21 close support aircraft, P-47's, divebombed and strafed the fortifications in front of the 222nd Infantry and that was followed by a half-hour artillery preparation. Men sat and crouched in their foxholes and watched the planes and artillery pour their fire into the Siegfried and prayed that the bombing and the shelling would at least so stun the Germans that they would put up little fight. Artillery shells had little effect upon the forts but the bombs put cracks in them and certainly the men inside would feel that every minute would be their last.

At 1945 the bombing and shelling stopped and the men of the 222nd Infantry began their advance. They were tense and nervous and they had every right to be. Some of the forts were damaged, but many others were still intact. If the enemy manned the guns they could still put up a terrific fight. But the Germans didn't fight. Some of them had already started to run. Some cowered in their pillboxes and quickly surrendered. There were a few snipers and a couple of machine guns opened fire but they didn't even delay the advance.

The 222nd made its attack with the First Battalion on the left and the Second on the right. The Third Battalion followed the Second. The four hills overlooking the Saarbach River were captured without difficulty and the regiment raced ahead through the night to its secondary objective.

Following a half-hour artillery preparation the 242nd Infantry attacked across the Saarbach River at 0430 the following morning with the First and Third Battalions abreast and the Second in reserve. By 1045 the regiment had advanced to Hill 542 and entered the secondary defenses of the Siegfried. It found them unoccupied and then swung its attack to the northeast and east with an objective to take the high ground immediately north of the town of Dahn.

Now the Germans were on the run and here was the opportunity to catch them on the roads and in the mountains and cut them off before they could make their escape.

This was the day when the 42nd Division Artillery came to the fore. Enemy troops and vehicles were jamming the roads. Horse-drawn enemy artillery was attempting to escape. The Germans were fleeing in trucks and cars and carts.

Over them buzzed the planes of the Division artillery air section, locating targets and directing fire not only of the Division guns but of the entire VI Corps artillery. In addition, they located targets beyond artillery range and directed P-47's to them.

Throughout that day and night the guns of the artillery poured death upon the Germans. Never before had they fired so many observed fire missions and never again did they equal the record. They wiped out whole columns of Germans and littered the roads with dead men and horses and vehicles, wagons and equipment. Four enemy 105-mm. and 150-mm. artillery battalions together with all equipment were totally destroyed. One of them was hit on the road and the others smashed while still in position.

Infantrymen who experienced German shelling saw the destruction wrought by our own guns and knew that the Nazis had nothing to compare with our artillery.

Pursuing and capturing the Germans were the infantrymen. The First Battalion of the 242nd Infantry was motorized and it raced after and then through the fleeing enemy. Elements of the regiment engaged in a brief fire fight in the town of Salzwoog, but quickly cleared resistance and pushed on. The 48th Tank Battalion supported by Company F, 232nd Infantry, mounted on tanks, moved out of Ludwingswinkel at 1430 after roads had been cleared of mines by the engineers and attacked north to Salzwoog and then southeast along the Ninterweidenthal-Busenberg road, clearing the towns of Dahn and Busenberg. In the latter town it captured more than 800 prisoners.

Assembled after it was passed through by the other two regiments the 232nd Infantry pushed forward through the mountains with the 222nd Infantry doing the same. The 42nd Reconnaissance Troop rushed forward along the right flank.

Now the Division was pinched off just past Dahn by the units on its right and left and on the morning of the 23rd the regiments reached the limits of the Rainbow's sector and began the job of rounding up and digging out all the Germans which had been by-passed in the whirlwind advance.

Everywhere there was enemy surrendering. They threw down their arms and walked into town and

gave themselves up. They came pouring out of the hills. In the 24 hours after its break through the Siegfried the Division took more than 2,000 prisoners and in that same length of time advanced 15 miles through the Hardt Mountains.

Now the regiments retraced their steps and for the next seven days they were engaged in combing the area north of the Siegfried for enemy hiding in the forest and hills. Engineers began the gigantic job of blowing up all the Siegfried fortifications so that never again may they be used by Germany in waging war.

At Dahn, the Division held a ceremony in which decorations were awarded and the flags of the 48 states of the United States were planted for the first time on German soil.

It was also the time for the Passover and the Jewish Chaplain requisitioned the town hall, got the Nazis to clean it up and in it held the first Jewish religious services to be conducted in that section of Germany since the Nazis came into power.

Now there was a change in the manner of living of the men of the Division. No longer were they fighting through liberated country, but through a conquered land and a land in which the people were fearful and hostile and dangerous. The non-fraternization regulations which had been taught since the Rainbow went into its defensive position in the Hardt Mountains were put into effect. It was forbidden to speak to Germans except on business matters and no social contact with them was allowed.

Steeped in Nazi propaganda, the people expected to see an army of movie gangsters and jitterbugs. They expected to be looted and robbed for they knew their soldiers did that in the countries they conquered. They were fearful and amazed when they were treated firmly but courteously. Rainbowmen soon found the farmers and villagers pleasant and eager to please. Their homes or towns had not been destroyed by bombs or shells and they wanted to give the impression that the American army was liberating them from the terrible yoke of Nazi tyranny, which they themselves were constantly fighting.

The people in the larger cities which the Division was to capture later had a different attitude. Their homes and buildings had been destroyed and they were more sullen, less cooperative, more inclined to blame the Americans for the entire war and their own personal misfortune.

No one was a Nazi, however. Everyone denied sympathizing with the Nazi party. Even government officials claimed they had been forced into the party. They all hated Hitler, but not because he had started the war, but because he was losing it.

"To hear these people talk, Adolf Hitler must have been the greatest man in the world," one soldier remarked. "All by himself he organized this country, made it produce war materials and then made everyone fight. All the time he was doing this everyone was against him. How can these Germans expect you to believe that?"

Men took to asking Germans if they were Nazi party members just to hear their vehement denials of "Nicht Nazi, Nicht Nazi."

No longer were men forced to live in public buildings and in bombed out houses. If there were houses in a town which were undamaged they were requisitioned and the civilians were moved out to live with friends while the soldiers moved in. If there was time the Germans were instructed to put clean sheets on the beds and tidy up the house before they left. In the drive through Germany that was soon to follow there is probably not a man in the Rainbow who did not get to spend at least a couple of nights in a German feather bed with its huge "bolster" which replaced blankets. In many instances the beds were too short, but they were beds and a luxury after sleeping on floors and on the ground.

While the Rainbow Division was clearing out the area in the vicinity of Dahn and the Siegfried, units of the Third Army created and expanded bridgeheads across the Rhine and the Seventh Army did the same at Worms. It was originally intended that the Rainbow would exploit the Seventh Army bridgehead once it was established, without difficulty and the same units that created it were able to enlarge it against only light to moderate opposition.

The next mission of the Division, therefore, was to pass through the bridgehead to the Main River and then drive eastward to Wurzburg, a key city in the German defenses and one which the Nazis were to defend with fanatical fury.

On the last day of March, Easter Sunday, the 222nd and 232nd Infantry Regiments were loaded in trucks and began the movement across the Rhine, and into position near the Main River just east of Werthheim, a distance of approximately 125 miles.

The crossing was made over a pontoon bridge which stretched across the swift-flowing Rhine only a few yards from the wrecked permanent structure in the heart of the city of Worms. While passing through the city itself Rainbowmen had their first glimpse of the damage that could be wrought upon a large city by the Air Force. Hardly a house in the entire city possessed a roof, rubble was piled



high in the streets and civilians were busy looting a huge wine cellar. Whole blocks of buildings were completely leveled. All these sights were to become familiar to every man in the Division before the month of April, with its marching and fighting from one large city to another, was over.

Division convoys sped ahead to reach the new positions against a rapidly withdrawing enemy over roads which were jammed with traffic. Trucks and

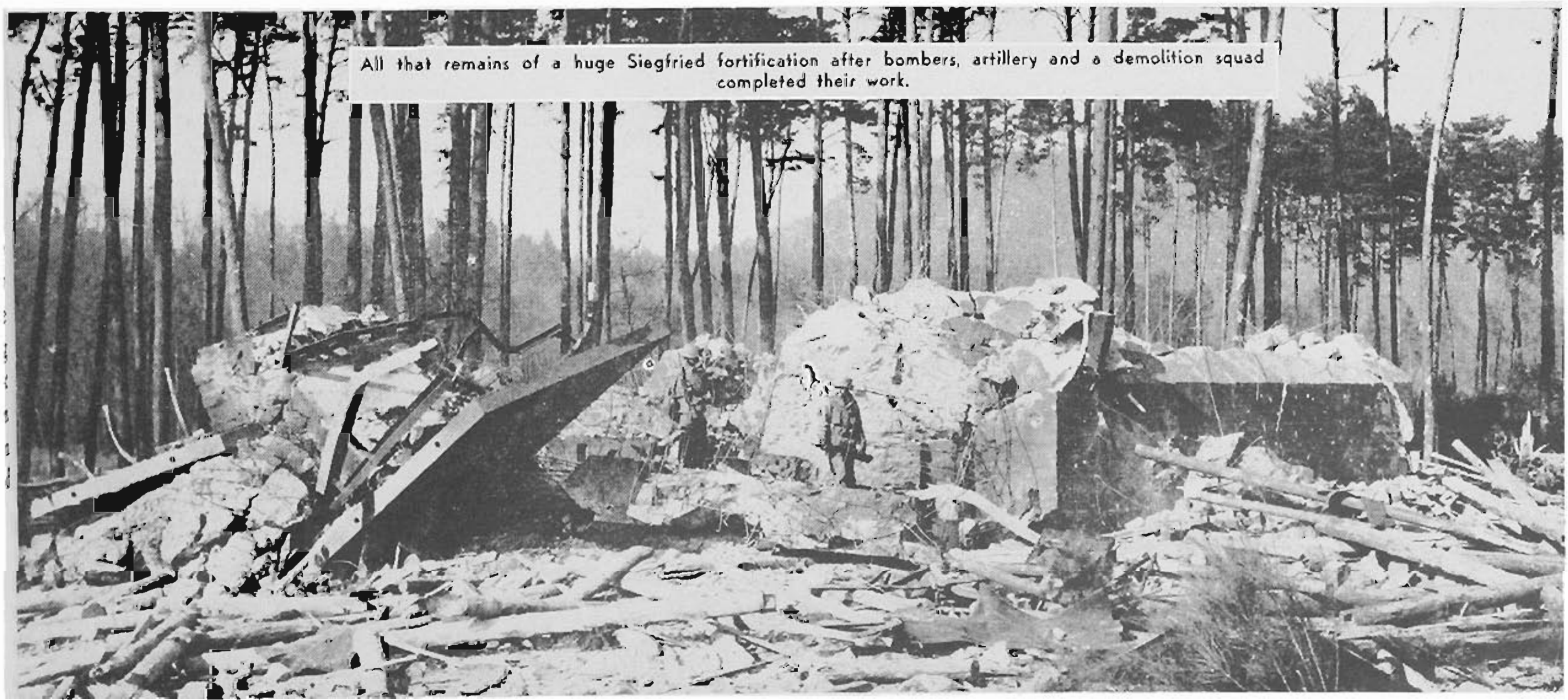
Left: An SS bulletin board at Fischbach, a West Wall strongpoint.



An engineer demolition topples an enemy observation tower.



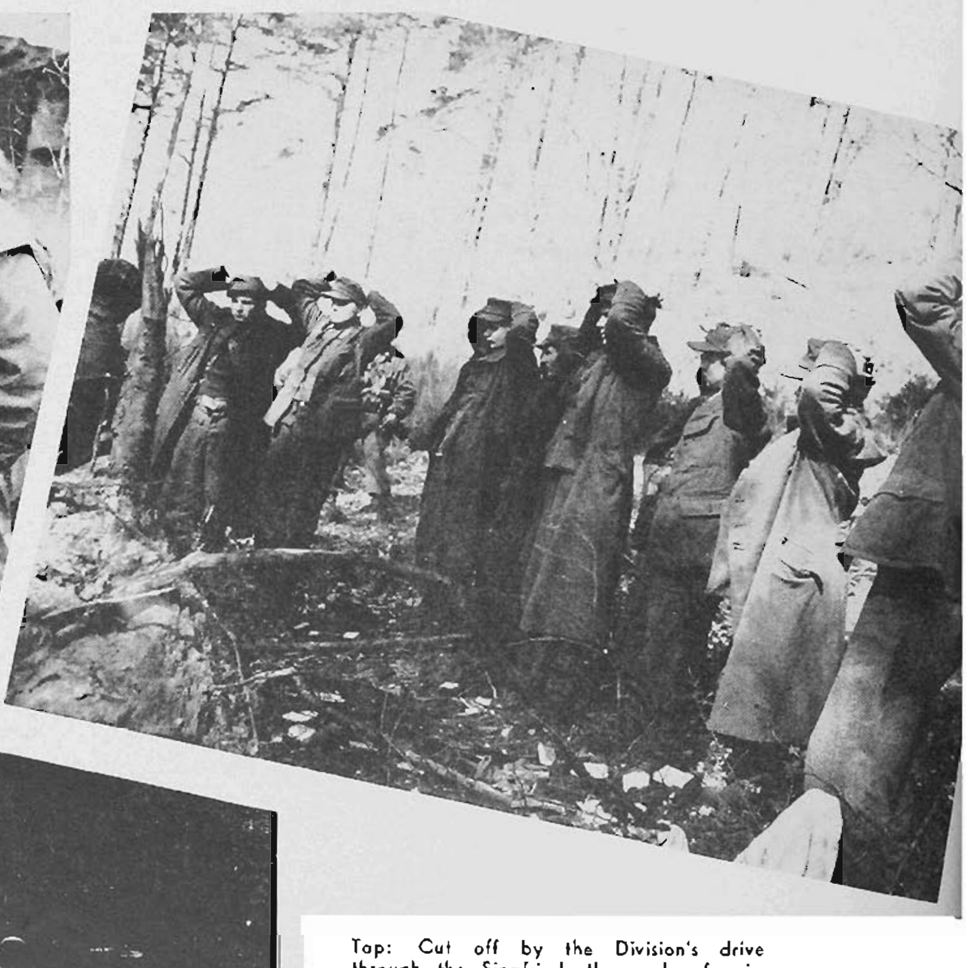
Inside a Siegfried pillbox the German garrison kept a white flag handy.

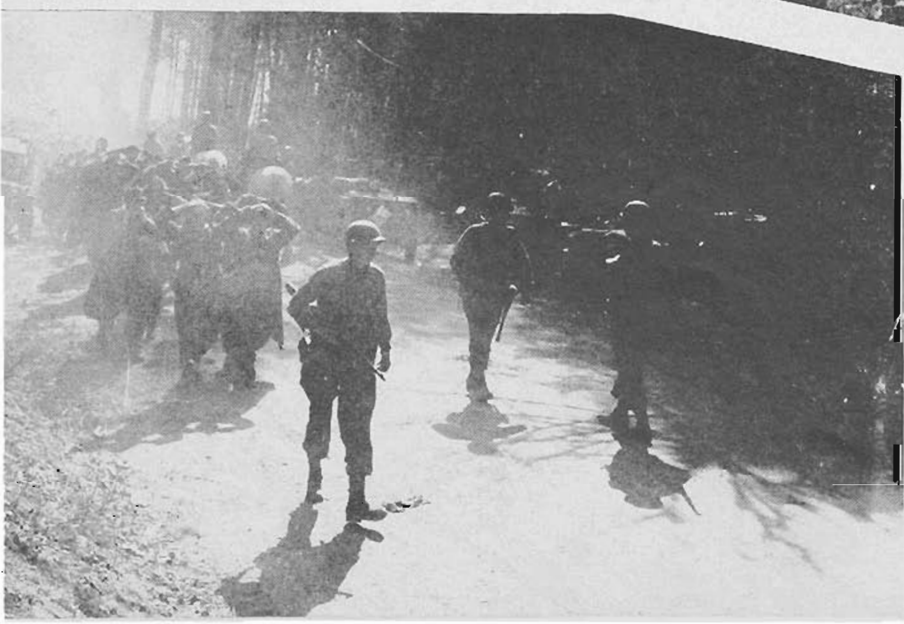


All that remains of a huge Siegfried fortification after bombers, artillery and a demolition squad completed their work.









Top: Cut off by the Division's drive through the Siegfried, thousands of prisoners were seized in the vicinity of Dahn.

Center left: The General examines a medal of a young Nazi.

Center right: Hands on head, their coats open, they await their turn to be searched.

Bottom: Herded by doughs riding captured horses, the lines of prisoners stretch for miles.

tanks and jeeps had been pouring over the Rhine bridges at Worms in a never-ending stream for three days. Truck after truck and convoy after convoy roared through tiny German villages all day and all night. Villagers stood outside their homes or leaned out of windows and gaped in amazement. Never had they seen anything like this. Never had they believed it possible that one army could have so many vehicles. The German army that was to stop this terrific machine was fleeing on foot or with horses and battered trucks barely able to run. Now they knew the war could not last much longer. Nothing could stop this power of the Americans.



An historic picture of one of the first Passover services in Nazi Germany, held at Dahn.

Actually, American supply lines were stretched long and thin. Because of a shortage of trucks the 242nd Infantry Regiment remained in an assembly area near Dahn until April 1, when it began its move across the Rhine with the First and Second Battalions moving with their organic transportation and captured German vehicles and the Third Battalion remaining behind to await the return of the trucks.

The Division moved into the front line with the 222nd and 232nd Infantry Regiments abreast, the 222nd on the right and the 232nd on the left, both units relieving elements of the 3rd Infantry Division and the 222nd Infantry relieving units of the 12th Armored Division. The Rainbow was assigned to the XXI Corps. The 3rd Infantry Division was on the left and the 4th on the right.

Attached to the Division was the 692nd Tank Destroyer Battalion, which had joined the Rainbow just prior to the March 15 jump-off and had already proved itself a worthy fighting mate. In the month of fighting which lay ahead the infantrymen and the tankers were to be welded together in a mutually supporting companionship which greatly aided the swift advance of the Division.

The first objective of the 222nd Infantry was the capture of Wertheim. Moving with the First and Second Battalions abreast, the regiment shuttled with its motors until it nearly reached the city. There opposition stiffened and the troops dismounted and moved ahead. Although a Nazi rear guard force waged a short battle the troops had no difficulty in entering and clearing the town by 2100 on April 1. Both the First and Second Battalions then continued to advance on foot and the Third Battalion was motorized and directed to move rapidly northeast to join Task Force 1 of CCA of the 12th Armored Division in Hettstadt, a small town about five miles west of Wurzburg.

Meanwhile the First and Second Battalions of the 232nd Infantry on the Division left flank were



On Palm Sunday Catholic men kneel in the street to hear Mass in the town of Schwalheim. Behind are bareheaded civilians.

advancing toward Markt-Heidenfeld with the Third Battalion organized as Division reserve. The leading elements of the 232nd encountered strong enemy resistance in the vicinity of the Hassloch River and the advance was slow and difficult over mountainous terrain and a poor road net.

The second of April was a day of movement into position for the assault on Wurzburg which was to follow. It was now clear that the enemy was retreating across the Main River, which wound back and forth through the Division's path, to Wurzburg, one of the oldest cities in southern Germany and a center of art and medical schools. There, apparently, he planned to stage a defense with a collection of German soldiers who had fled into the city and a well-organized and fanatical Volkstrum commanded by the city's chief of police, a retired army colonel.

Combat Command A of the 12th Armored Division had pushed to within a few miles of the city and the entire 222nd Infantry Regiment was attached to that unit with the hope it would drive ahead quickly, capture Wurzburg, and then race on for Schweinfurt.

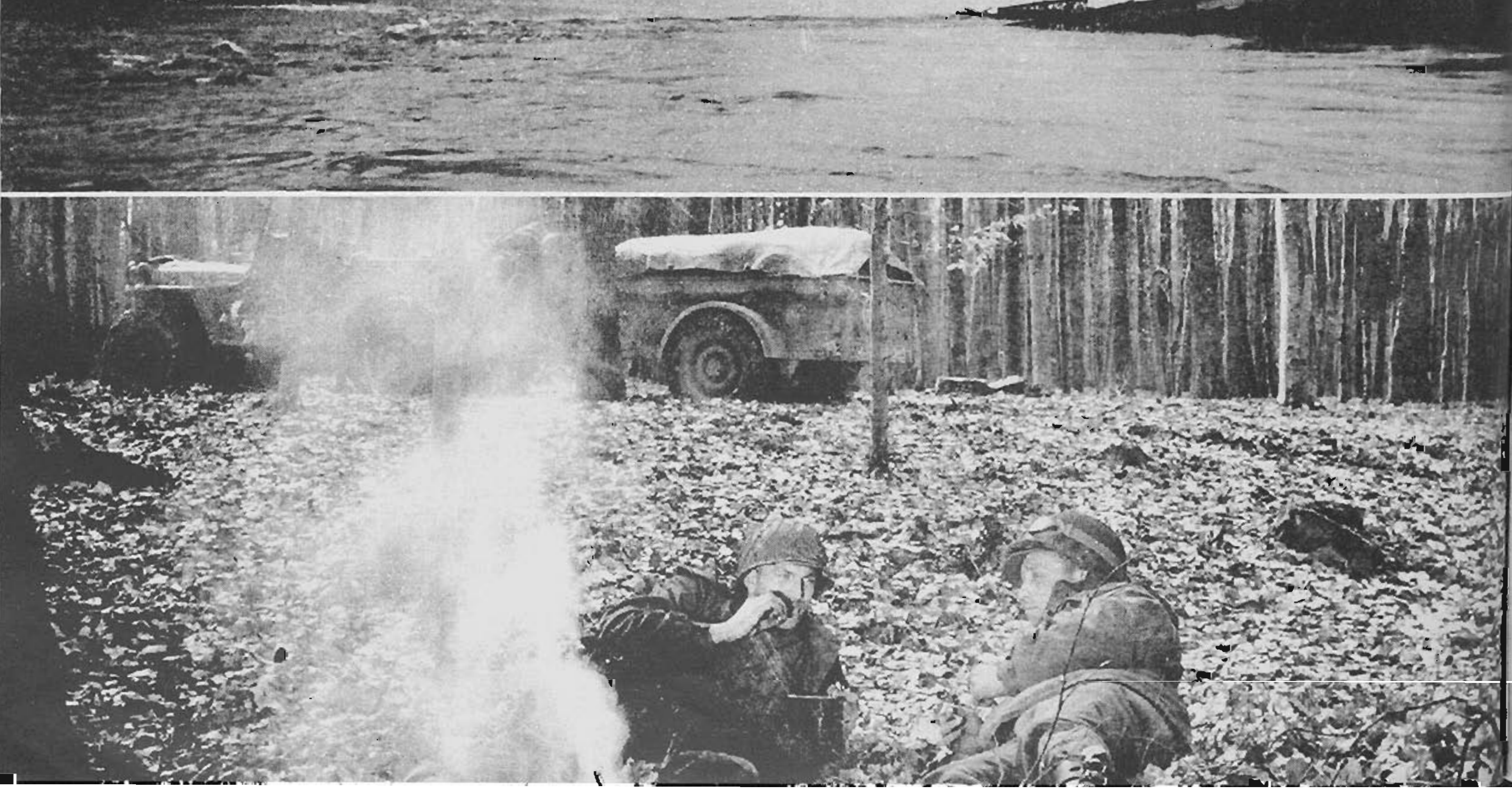
The balance of the Rainbow was to continue eastward in its zone, crossing and recrossing the Main and sweeping all enemy before it until it reached the Main River north of Wurzburg. If CCA and the 222nd Infantry were then having difficulty assaulting Wurzburg the 232nd Infantry



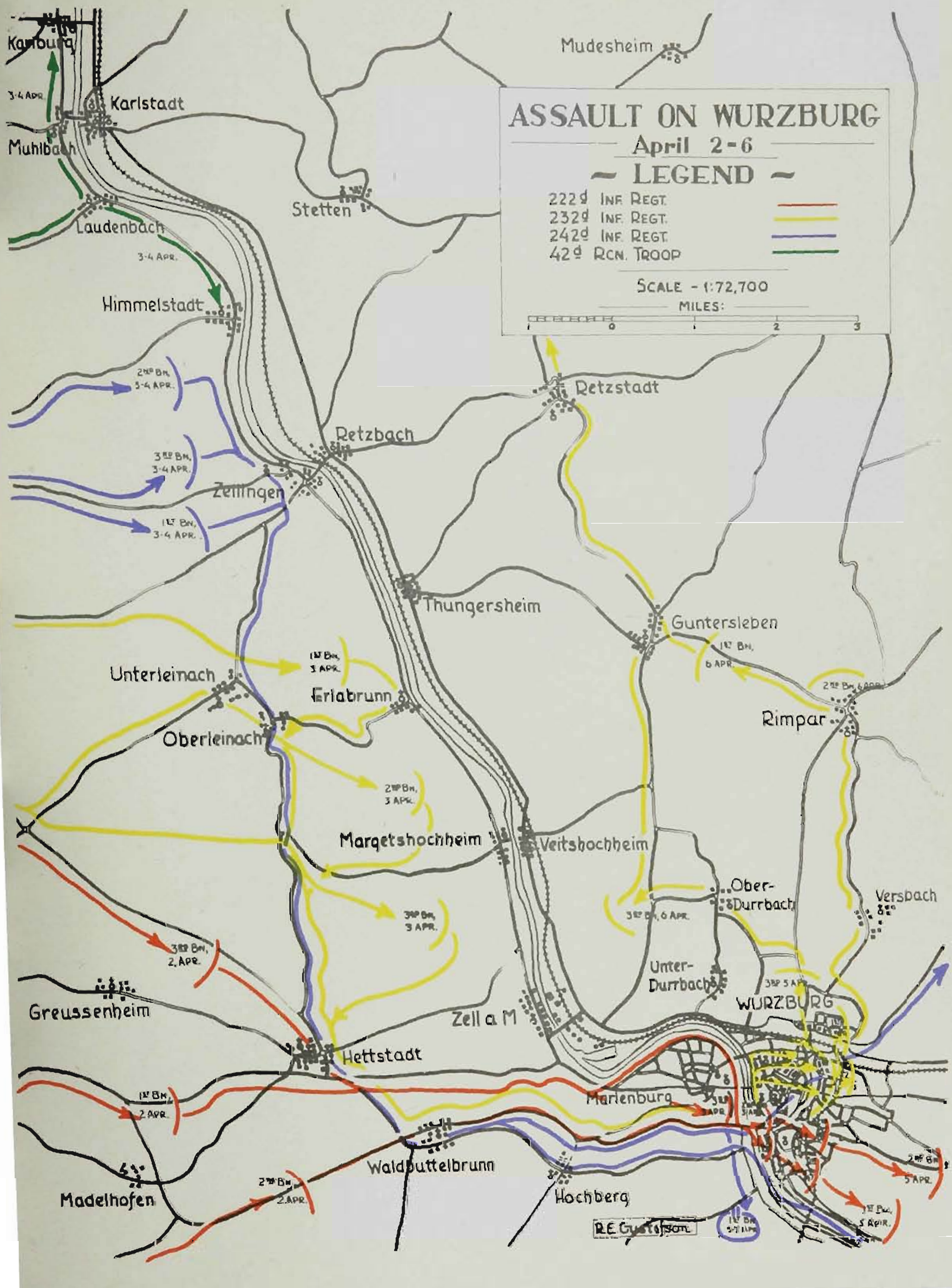
Flags of the 48 States parade for the first time in Germany



On Easter the Rainbow crossed the Rhine on an engineer bridge beside this wrecked structure at Worms and raced east to meet the enemy.



It was a long trip from Dahn to the Main River. When the convoy halted briefly, these men built a fire to warm themselves and heat rations.



ASSAULT ON WURZBURG
April 2-6
~ LEGEND ~
222d INF. REGT.
232d INF. REGT.
242d INF. REGT.
42d RCN. TROOP
SCALE - 1:72,700
MILES:
1 0 1 2 3
Karlburg
Karlstadt
Muhlbach
Laudenbach
Himmelstadt
Stetten
Mudesheim
Retzstadt
Retzbach
Zellingen
Thungersheim
Guntersleben
Rimpar
Unterleinach
Erlabrunn
Oberleinach
Margetshochheim
Veitshochheim
Ober-Durrbach
Versbach
Unter-Durrbach
WURZBURG
Greussenheim
Zell a M
Hettstadt
Marienburg
Waldbuttelbrunn
Hochberg
Madelhofen
3-4 APR.
2nd Bn. 3-4 APR.
3rd Bn. 3-4 APR.
1st Bn. 3-4 APR.
1st Bn. 3 APR.
2nd Bn. 3 APR.
3rd Bn. 3 APR.
1st Bn. 6 APR.
2nd Bn. 6 APR.
3rd Bn. 6 APR.
3rd Bn. 2 APR.
1st Bn. 2 APR.
2nd Bn. 2 APR.
3rd 5 APR.
2nd Bn. 5 APR.
1st Bn. 5 APR.
R.E. Gustafson

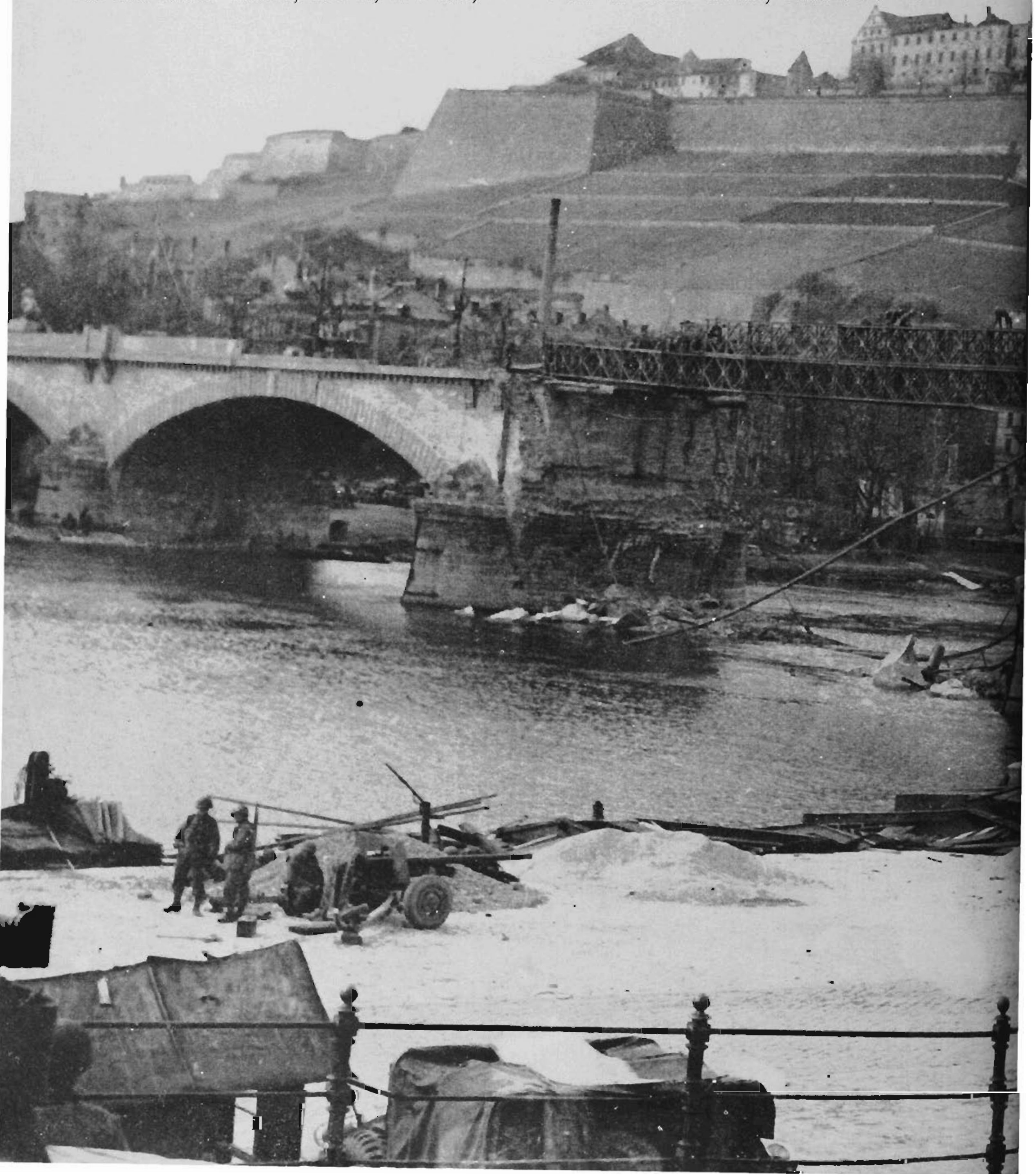

US

would feint a crossing just north of the city and the 242nd Infantry would cross near Retzbach and assault the defenders from the rear.

On the extreme left flank of the Division was placed the 42nd Reconnaissance Troop which was assigned to clear and patrol the flank and a huge area along the Main River.

On the night of April 2 the 222nd Infantry and CCA reached the Main River opposite Wurzburg and found that the three bridges across the river had been blown. The city itself lay in a valley with high ground to the north of it and on the west side of the river, where towered the huge Marienburg Castle. Across the front of this the Nazi's had carefully painted the words "Heil Hitler!" Soon these words were to be replaced by rainbows and the inscription "42nd Infantry 'Rainbow' Division." This was the first of thousands of Rainbow signs which from that time on were to mark every city, town or village the Rainbow captured or occupied.

When the 222nd Infantry reached the Main



there was a choice of either attempting to continue its assault or to pause there until engineers could bring up assault boats and then make the attack. It was decided not to wait.

Shortly before dawn a group of Rangers of the Second Battalion commanded by 2nd Lt. Dixon C. Rogers and Platoon Sergeant Michael Wargok, a staff sergeant, found a rowboat along the river and part of the platoon got in and rowed across. The boat was then rowed back and another group made the crossing.

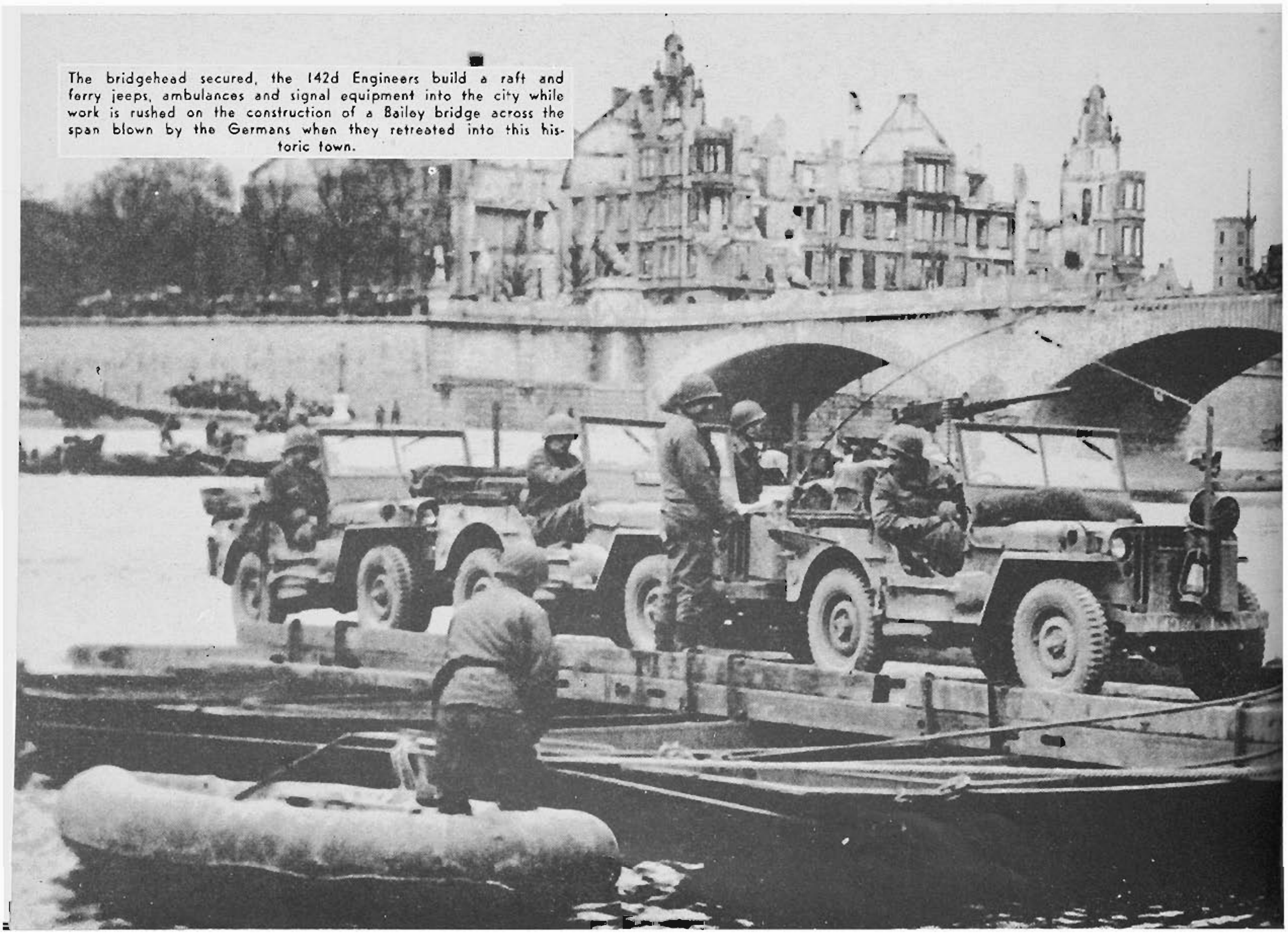
Not a shot was fired during these two crossings although the Rangers later took 29 Germans out of two strongpoints which commanded the river where the boats crossed. Perhaps these men had failed to see the Americans crossing, but more likely they had mistaken them in the darkness and in an ordinary rowboat for fleeing German troops entering the city.

With two boatloads of Rangers across the Second Battalion now had a small bridgehead and by this time the engineer assault boats had arrived.





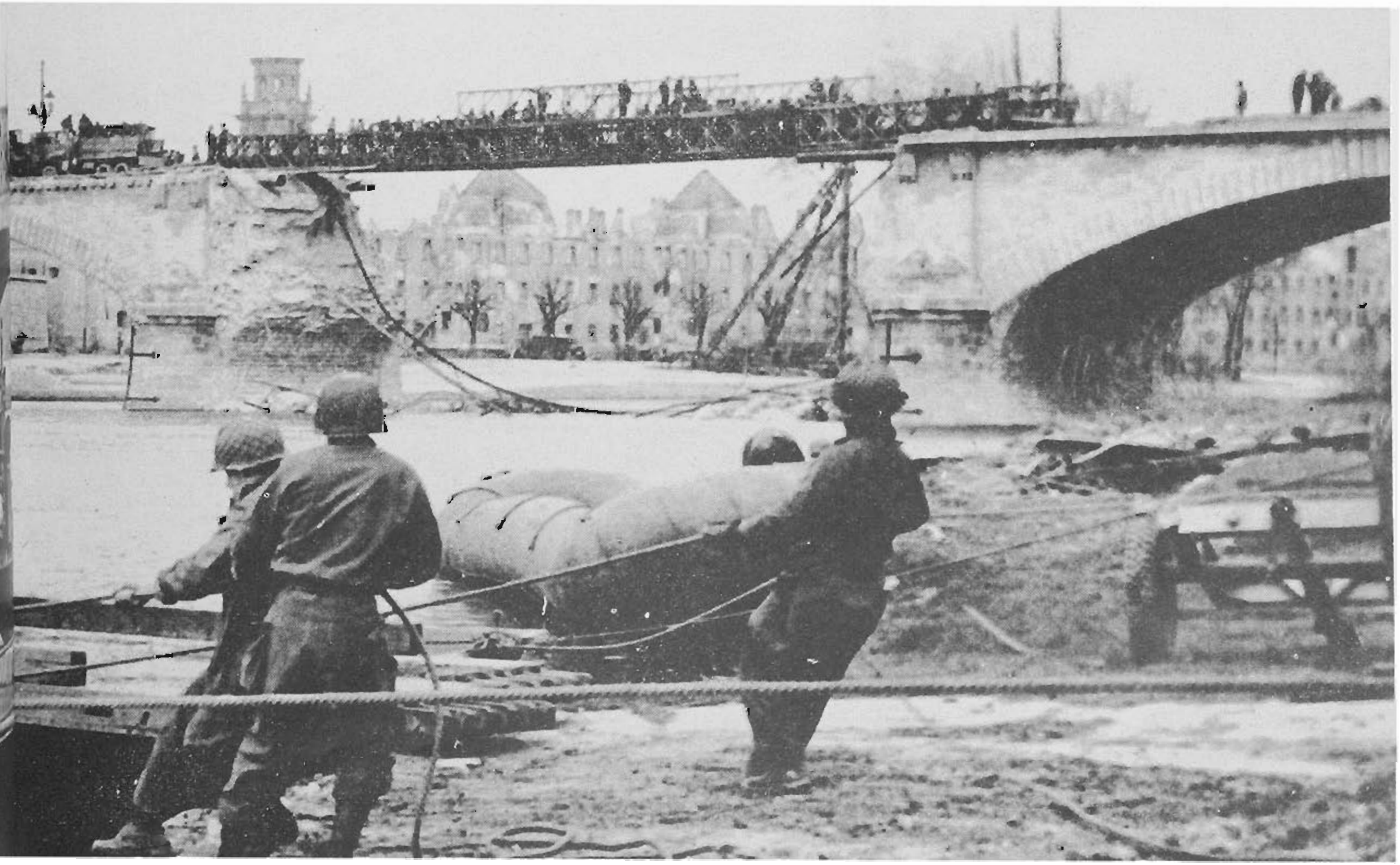
ithout pausing, Rangers of the 2d Battalion, 222d Infan-
, crossed into Wurzburg in row boats and assault boats
followed under heavy fire.



The bridgehead secured, the 142d Engineers build a raft and ferry jeeps, ambulances and signal equipment into the city while work is rushed on the construction of a Bailey bridge across the span blown by the Germans when they retreated into this historic town.



Just ahead of the advancing doughboys, the artillery pours shells into the park in the center of the city and the area beyond.





These boats, manned by men from Company A, 142nd Engineer Battalion, were to ferry the entire battalion over the river before the day was over.

The first assault boat, loaded with 11 infantrymen and 3 engineers, was in midstream when the Germans opened fire on it with rifles and 20-mm. anti-aircraft artillery. Fortunately the Germans did not seem to be able to depress the anti-aircraft fire far enough to bring accurate fire on the boats. Throughout the day, however, they continued to

Left: Some of the fanatical defenders of the city, now prisoners.

ense, alert, these men advance over piles of brick and concrete in search of snipers. Behind are the ever-present medics.





This is street fighting. One man is in sight, but he is covered by buddies in windows. The enemy may be in any of the buildings.

fire on the boats, but despite this and the strong current the engineers got the men across.

A flood wall along the river bank protected the first troops to enter the city and from this the Rangers sent out patrols which expanded the bridgehead and destroyed a machine gun which had the crossing site under direct fire. By nine o'clock squads from Company E had crossed the river and had won an area about 200 yards deep between two of the Wurzburg bridges. The Germans sent two tanks to counterattack this force but a bazooka

Top right: Three blocks ahead is street fighting. These men await orders.





222d Infantrymen move down a rubble-filled street which is almost impassible. Snipers lurk in the battered, thick-walled buildings.

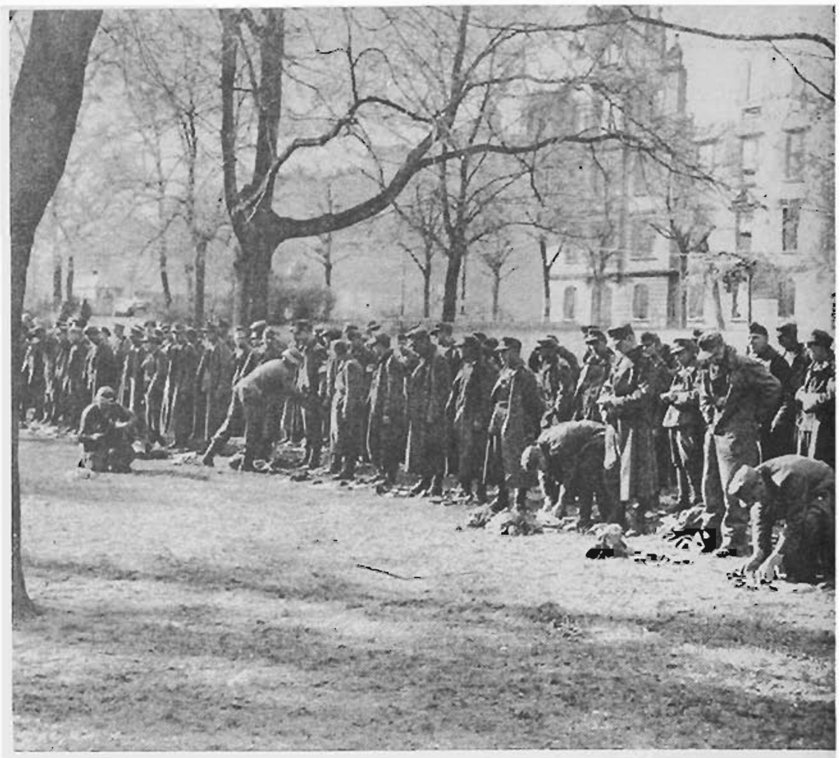


This German died while American medics were giving him first aid. He gets only a glance from the resting, watchful doughboys.

man from Company E knocked out one of the tanks and the other stopped. Company G then crossed the river and the bridgehead was further enlarged, until by 1530 it was six blocks wide and seven blocks deep. Back at the river the engineers had constructed a ferry and were bringing jeeps with radio equipment across the river.

The First Battalion of the 222nd Infantry then crossed the river and the bridgehead was secured. Engineers now began the construction of a Bailey bridge across a blown span of the main bridge over the river.

In the meantime, the 232nd Infantry, which had reached the river north of Wurzburg during the day, was moved by motors to the vicinity of Marienburg and marched to the Main River, prepared to cross the river the moment the bridge was completed. The 242nd Infantry moved to the Main



In the city park PWs empty their pockets and are searched

Puffing a cigarette, this infantryman keeps watch down a street while others in his squad search one of Wurzburg's factories.





It is raining and these men build a fire. Some fall asleep

approximately 10 miles north of Wurzburg and patrolled the area north from the Bronn River to Ansbach. As the river line was further reconnoitered by the Reconnaissance Troop for possible crossing sites enemy resistance was encountered and overcome at Laudenbach and Muhlbach and Karlburg.

The Bailey bridge was complete enough before dawn on the morning of April 4 to permit foot troops to cross it and all the foot troops of the 232nd Infantry regiment marched over before daylight and moved into the area which had been cleared by the 222nd Infantry. Both regiments then prepared to renew the attack.

The plan now was for the 222nd Infantry to clear the southern portion of the city while the 232nd Infantry cleared the northern portion and as dawn broke they began their attacks. Now the

242d Infantrymen walk around the body of a German soldier as they advance through the northern section of the city.



Rainbow met what was perhaps the most bitter resistance encountered while it was fighting as a complete unit. Civilians joined military personnel in battling the attackers. City firemen and policemen joined in the defense of the city. Nearly every house and building contained snipers and panzerfausts were lobbed like mortars into our lines. Beneath the city streets were networks of underground tunnels and the defenders retreated into these and then came up behind the Rainbowmen and attacked them from the rear.

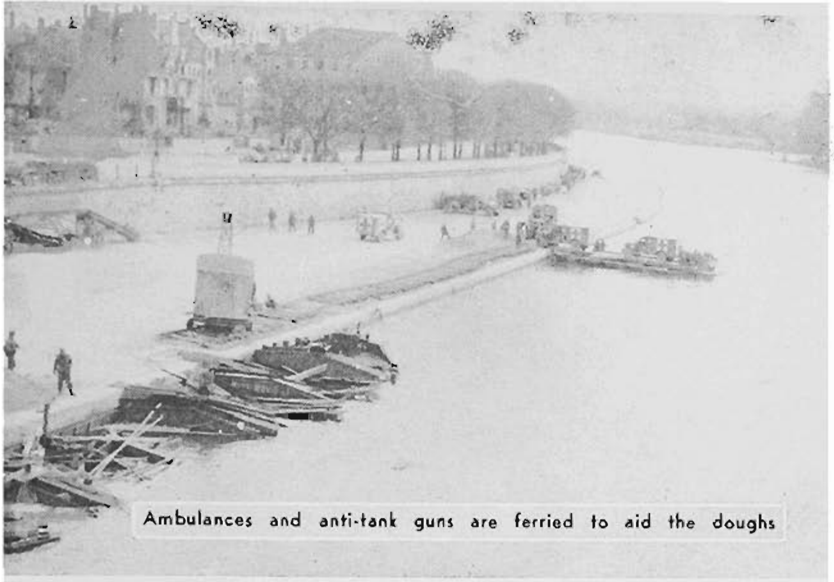
Supported by excellent artillery fire the infantry-



Five civilian snipers were found hiding in cellars



Every block had to be cleared by platoons which picked their way down the narrow streets and searched every house for enemy.



Ambulances and anti-tank guns are ferried to aid the doughs

men advanced against this opposition, however, and by nightfall the 222nd Infantry had cleared 45 additional blocks of the city and the 232nd Infantry had cleared 55 blocks. These gains brought the two regiments to a main railroad line which circled the city and there met a line of enemy entrenched in foxholes. There the regiments stopped their attack for the night, maintaining the formation they had used throughout the day with the First Battalion, 222nd Infantry, on the right, the Second Battalion, 222nd, left of it and then the Second,



Throughout the city the advance continues with infantrymen sweeping out the fanatics, cutting them off and forcing surrender.



To speed traffic into the city work is begun by the 142d Engineer Battalion on a ponton bridge.
The completed bridge brought armored aid to the infantry.



The fighting nearly over, there is a chance to gather up an armful of Wurzburg champagne. It was more plentiful than water.



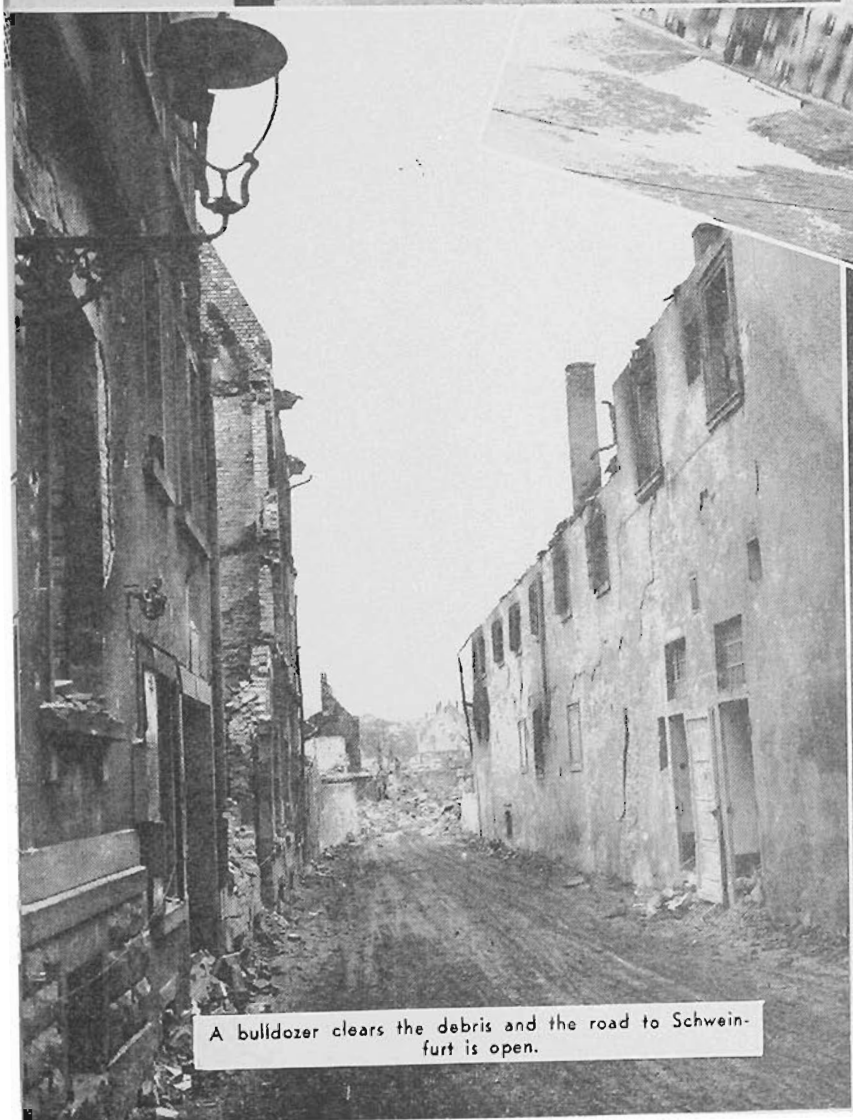
Barges in the Main at Wurzburg did not escape Allied bombers.

First and Third Battalions of the 242nd Infantry, from right to left.

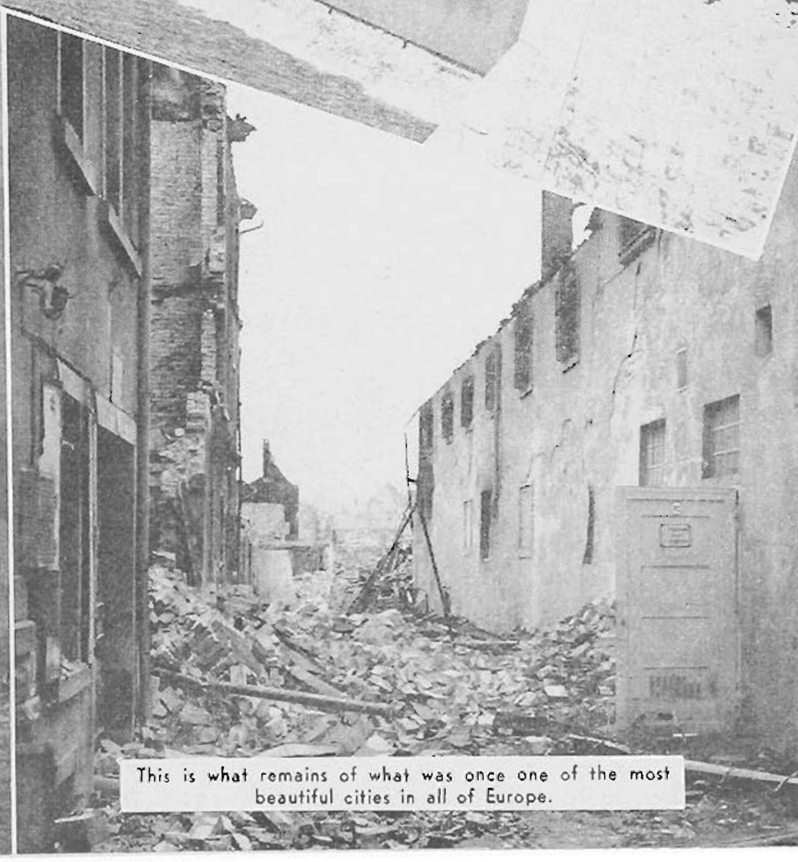
During the night the enemy again attempted to infiltrate through the Division lines and return into the city through the tunnels, but the infiltrating forces were discovered and wiped out. At 0515 on April 5 the Nazis launched a counterattack from the north portion of Wurzburg with approximately 200 men in a fanatical attempt to reach and destroy the Bailey bridge which was not completed and also a treadway bridge which had been constructed.

The Third Battalion of the 232nd Infantry, supported by elements of the First and Second Battalions, met the attack and stopped it after it had penetrated to within 100 yards of the Bailey bridge. Heavy casualties were inflicted on the enemy and 80 prisoners were taken. After reorganizing, the Third Battalion, 232nd Infantry, attacked and

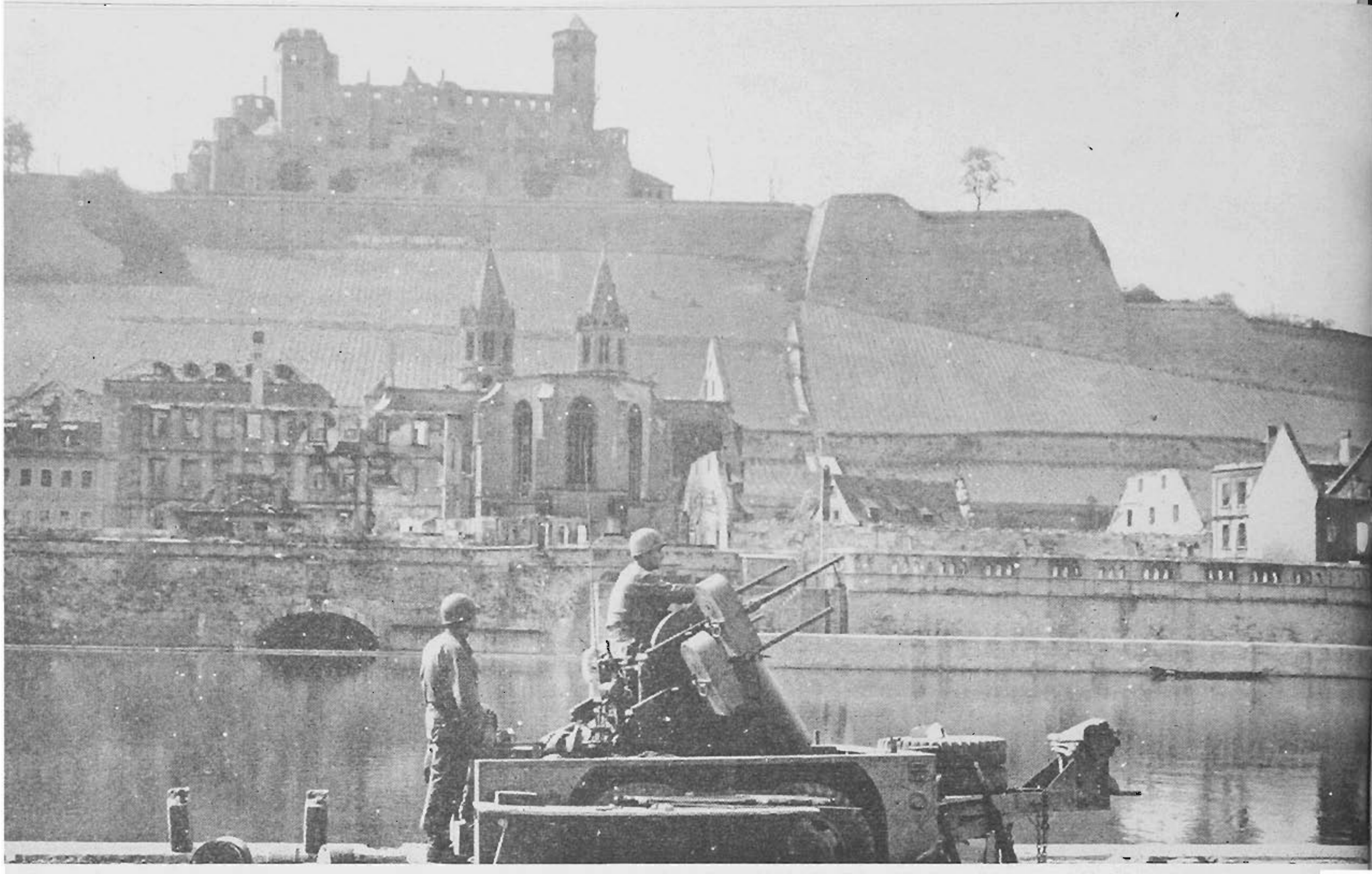




A bulldozer clears the debris and the road to Schweinfurt is open.



This is what remains of what was once one of the most beautiful cities in all of Europe.



Men of the 431st Anti-Aircraft Battalion guard the Wurzburg bridge, over which pour supplies for the Schweinfurt drive.

crossed the railroad in the northeast portion of the city and cleared the remaining buildings to the north. The First and Second Battalions of the same regiment continued the attack to the east and cleared the remaining portion of the city in their zones against strong resistance. The 222nd Infantry continued its attack and reached the high ground on the eastern outskirts of Wurzburg. The 242nd Infantry now entered the city and systematically began a search of all buildings, cellars, tunnels and areas for by-passed enemy resistance.

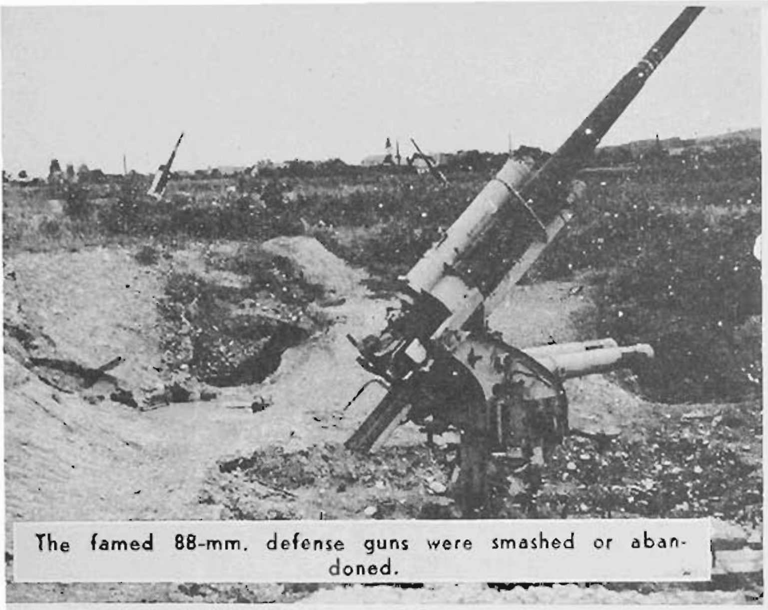
The battle for Wurzburg was now over and the Division was ready to strike northward along the Main River for Schweinfurt, the center of the Nazi ball-bearing industry and one of the most important industrial cities in Germany. Some of the defenders of Wurzburg had fled there, although more than 2,500 had been captured in the taking of the city.

As the Rainbow started on its next mission hardly a jeep or a truck left Wurzburg that did not contain a case or at least a few bottles of champagne, which had been discovered in the battered cellars of the city. Since the first troops had entered the city champagne had actually flowed like water. In fact, it was easier to obtain than water as all the water in the town had been cut off by either bombs or shells and the river was the only source. Champagne was plentiful. Men took all they could carry, which usually was one or two bottles, and they drank it as they would water and even brushed their teeth in it. The champagne in Wurzburg will probably be remembered long after the details of the fighting are forgotten.

On April 6 the Rainbow moved out of Wurzburg and started northward with the 222nd Infantry on the right flank, the 232nd Infantry on the left and the 242nd Infantry in the center, following CCA of the 12th Armored Division. The Division itself remained the left flank unit in the XXI Corps with the 4th Division on the right and the 3rd Division on the left.

Ahead of the Division the enemy had prepared a town-by-town defense of the area. Groups of retreating enemy were being assembled together and placed in each community of any size with instructions to remain there and fight until the last. Very few groups actually did this, but all put up a fight and all were intent on delaying the march of the Division.

The original plan was to send the 12th Armored Division racing from Wurzburg to Schweinfurt

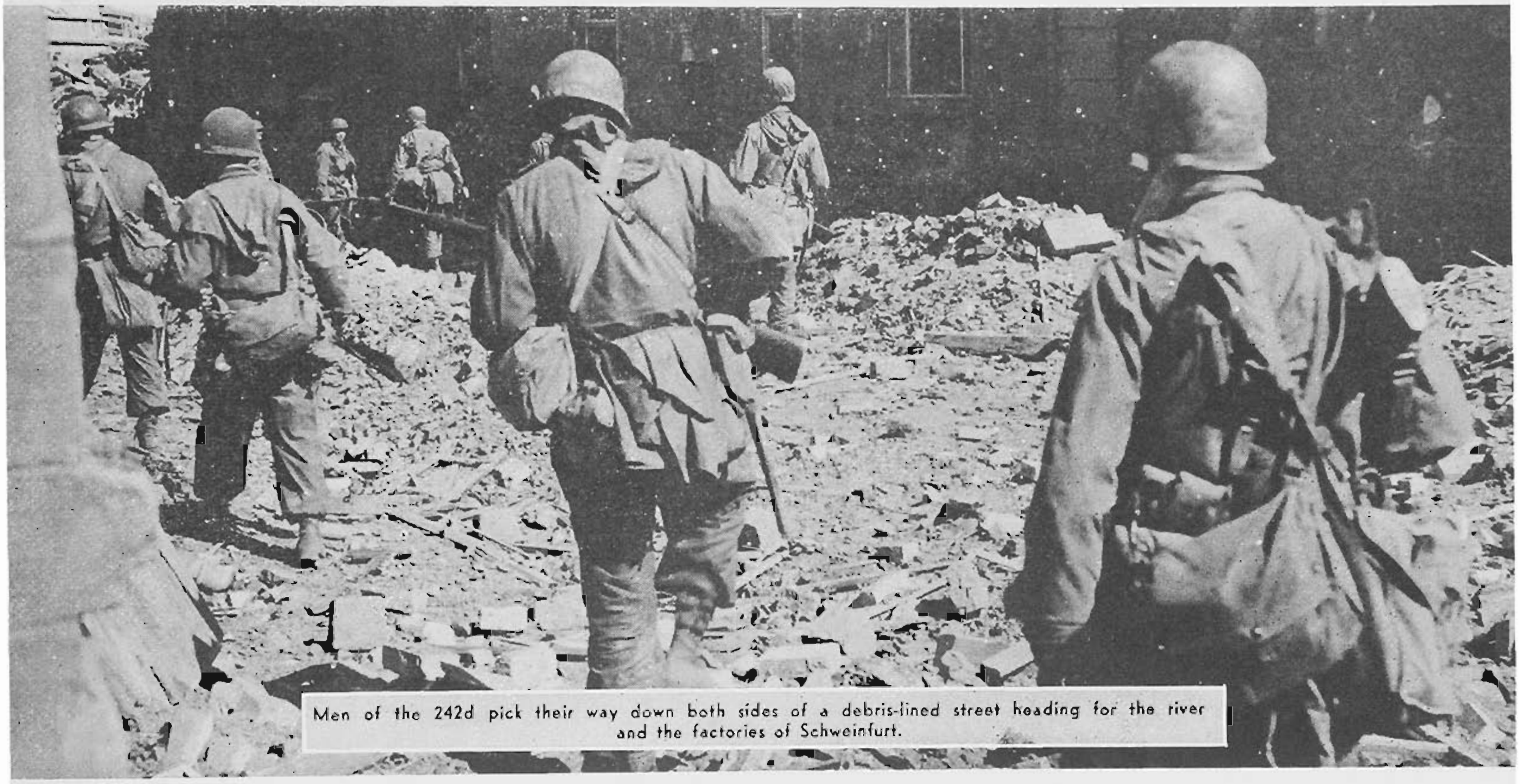


The famed 88-mm. defense guns were smashed or abandoned.

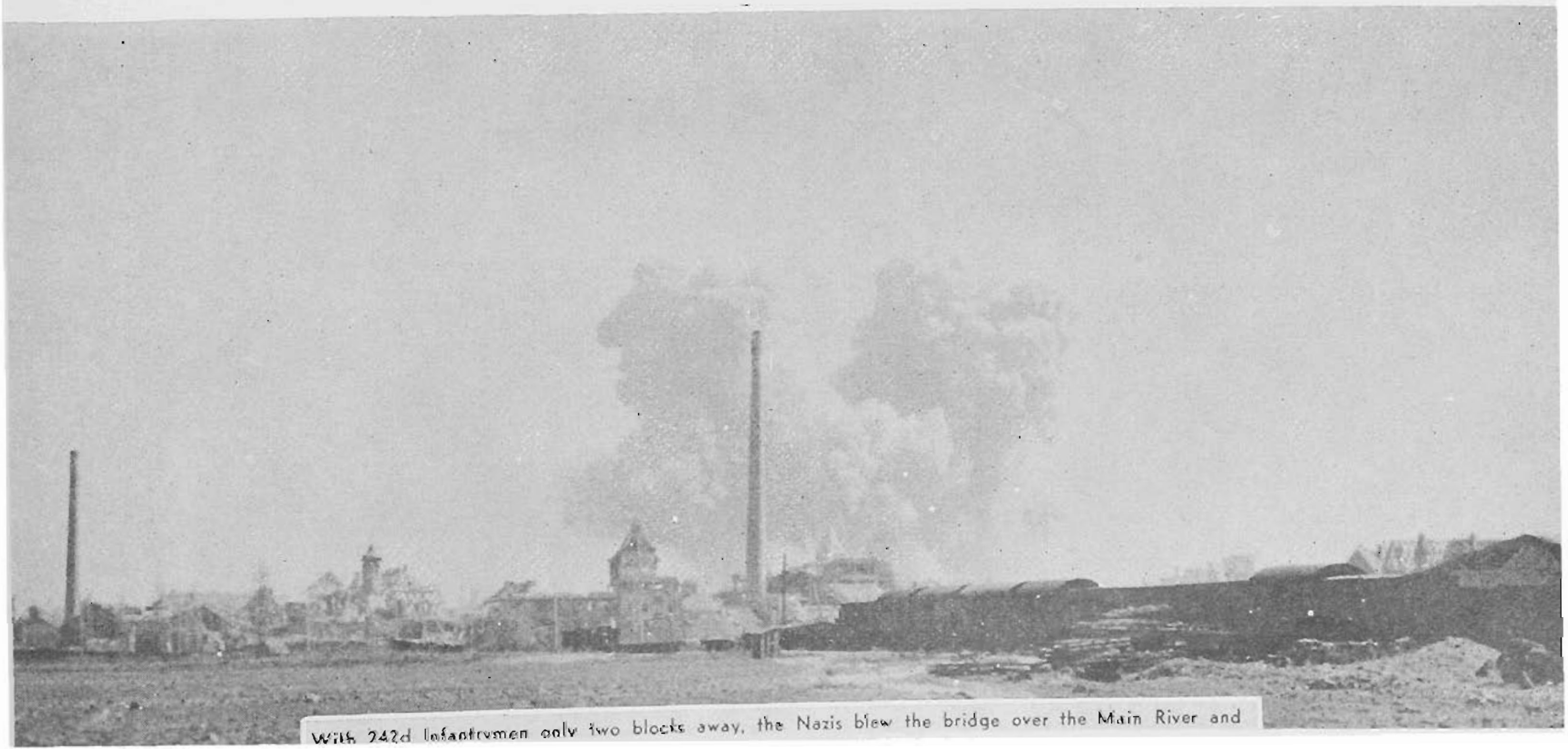
and quickly capture the city but the opposition of the Germans in the towns forced this plan to be abandoned and on April 7 the CCA of the 12th Armored was placed under the control of the Rainbow and the Division directed to take the ball-bearing capital.

Now the plan was for the infantry to drive straight north for the city. CCA was to cross the Main River north of Wurzburg and then race northward to prevent the enemy escaping to the east.

Chief obstacle to be overcome in taking the city would be the rings of 88-mm. guns which defended



Men of the 242d pick their way down both sides of a debris-lined street heading for the river and the factories of Schweinfurt.



With 242d Infantrymen only two blocks away, the Nazis blew the bridge over the Main River and

it. These guns were originally placed as anti-aircraft defenses to guard the ball-bearing factories, and they had made the city one of the most costly targets ever attacked by our air force. Now these same guns could be used as a defense against ground troops.

Despite determined enemy resistance, CCA and the 242nd Infantry advanced eight miles in the center of the Division zone on April 7. The 232nd Infantry captured the high ground north of Wurzburg after heavy fighting and the 222nd Infantry advanced 10 miles on the right and seized ferry sites near Volkbach on the Main.

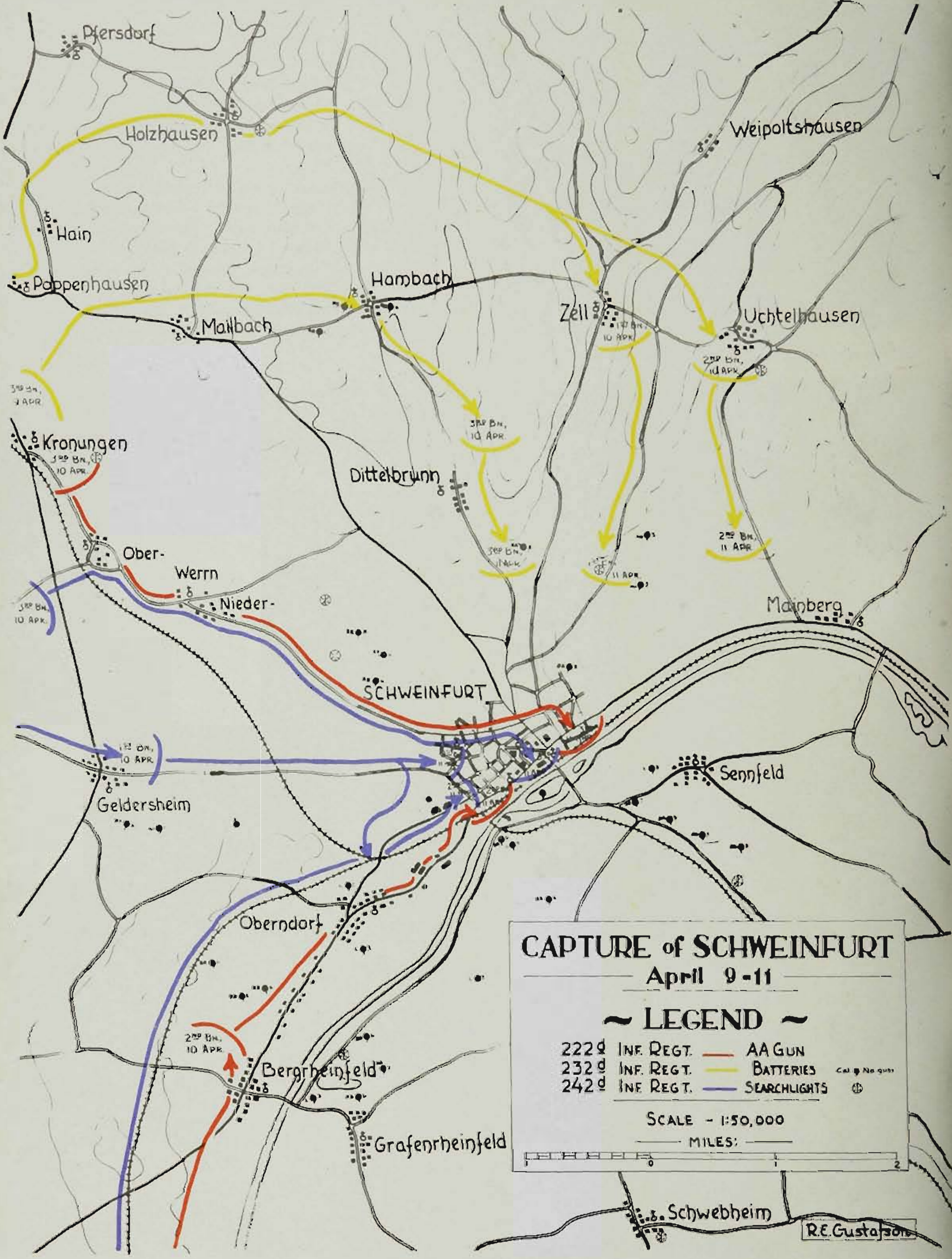
The following day the 232nd Infantry Second

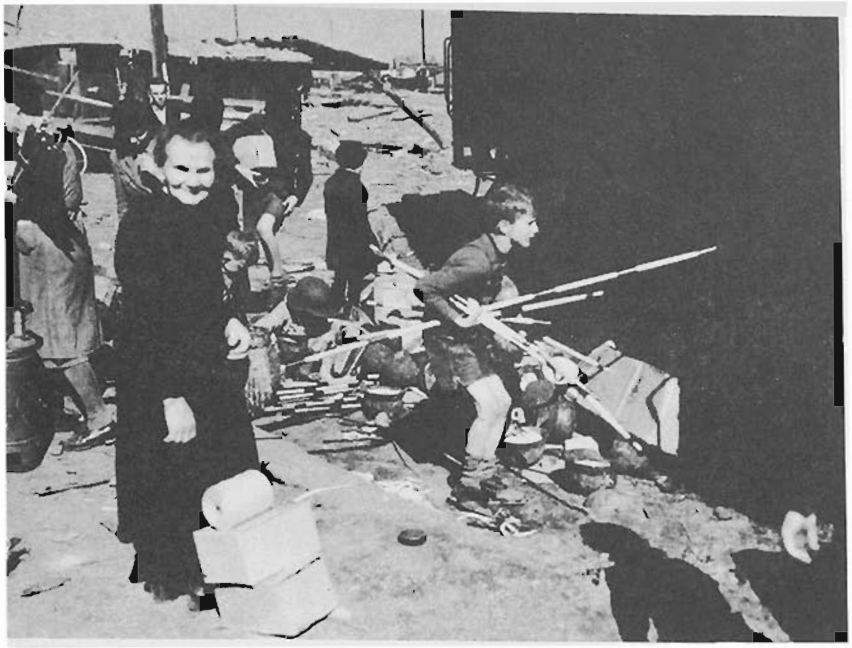


Their white armbands signifying surrender, civilians flee the city.



A leading squad of the 1st Battalion, 242d Infantry, moves cautiously down a bomb-torn street on the western edge of the city.


Pfersdorf
Holzhausen
Weipoltshausen
Hain
Poppenhausen
Hambach
Maibach
Zell
1st Bn. 10 Apr.
Uchtelhausen
2nd Bn. 10 Apr.
3rd Bn. 9 Apr.
3rd Bn. 10 Apr.
Kronungen
3rd Bn. 10 Apr.
Dittelbrunn
2nd Bn. 11 Apr.
Ober-
Werrn
Nieder-
3rd Bn. 10 Apr.
Mainberg
SCHWEINFURT
1st Bn. 10 Apr.
Geldersheim
Sennfeld
Oberndorf
2nd Bn. 10 Apr.
Bergrheinfeld
Grafenrheinfeld
Schwebheim
CAPTURE of SCHWEINFURT
April 9-11
~ LEGEND ~
222d Inf. Regt.
232d Inf. Regt.
242d Inf. Regt.
AA Gun
Batteries
Searchlights
Scale - 1:50,000
Miles:
1
0
1
2
R.E. Gustafson



Looters rush to the railroad yards to raid the boxcars

Battalion met stiff resistance in the town of Arnstein, defended by young fanatics, some of them not more than 17 years old. The battalion, aided by the First Battalion which had enveloped the enemy's left flank, finally cleared the town. The 242nd Infantry fought with CCA against stubborn resistance and cleared the key towns of Werneck, Mulhausen and Ettleben. The 142nd Engineer Battalion then constructed a treadway bridge across the Main River at Nordheim, 15 miles south of Schweinfurt so that CCA could cross the river and cut the escape routes to the east from Schweinfurt.

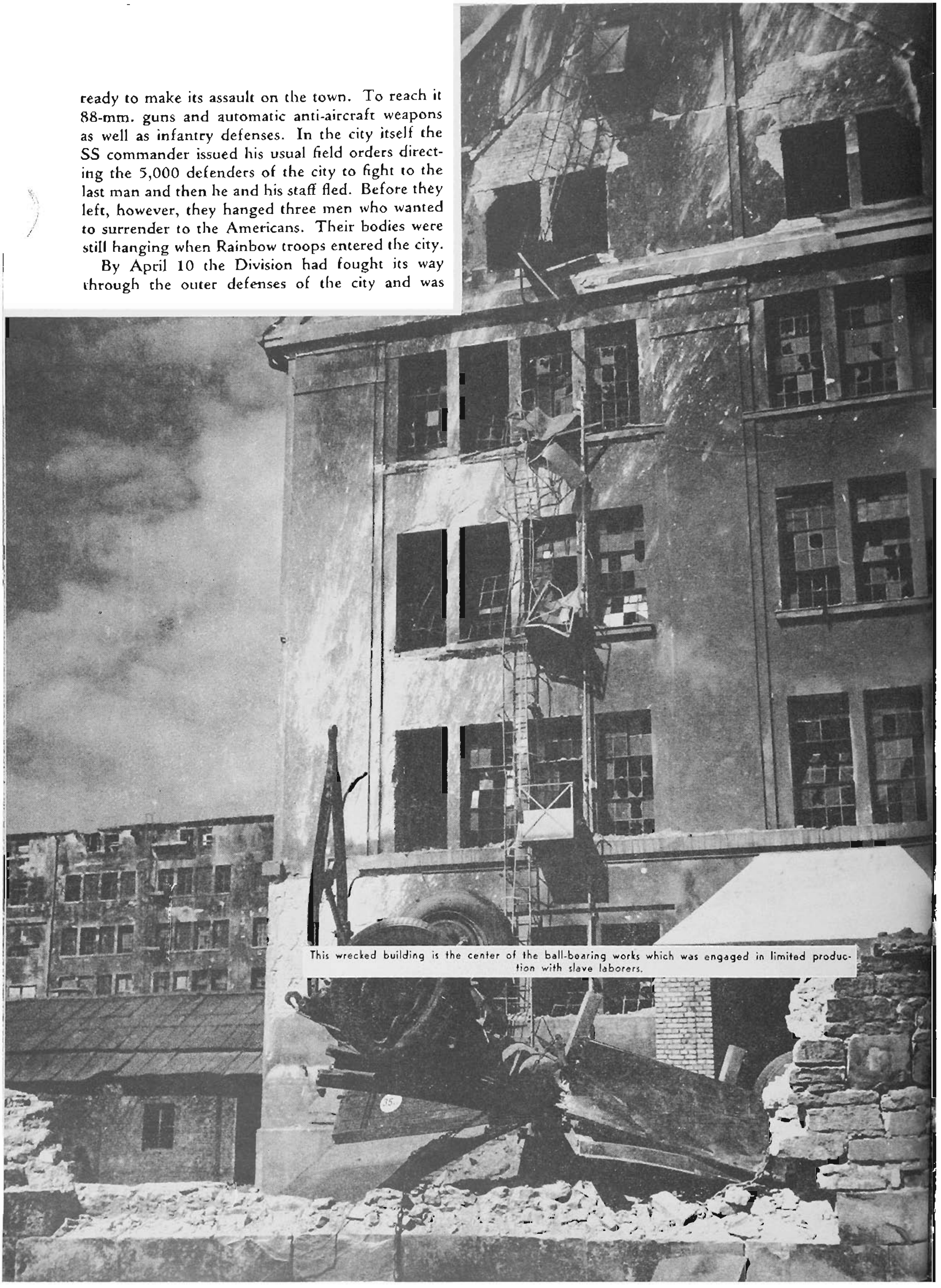
Town by town the Rainbow advanced toward Schweinfurt, moving forward against fire from



Infantrymen begin a house-to-house search of the city for snipers. Note the bomb crater in the foreground, made the day before.

ready to make its assault on the town. To reach it 88-mm. guns and automatic anti-aircraft weapons as well as infantry defenses. In the city itself the SS commander issued his usual field orders directing the 5,000 defenders of the city to fight to the last man and then he and his staff fled. Before they left, however, they hanged three men who wanted to surrender to the Americans. Their bodies were still hanging when Rainbow troops entered the city.

By April 10 the Division had fought its way through the outer defenses of the city and was



This wrecked building is the center of the ball-bearing works which was engaged in limited production with slave laborers.


The battle over, soldiers and civilians put out fires

the infantry had to attack across a flat open area which offered no protection against the 88-mm. fire. If the German artillery remained intact it would be a difficult task to take the city, and a costly one.

It was decided first to completely circle the objective. To accomplish this the 232nd Infantry was sent on a 10-mile march at night over rugged terrain with no roads to the north of the city, so that it could then turn south and seize the high ground which was immediately north of Schweinfurt. In the meantime, CCA had been waging a fierce battle


A tank dozer begins the tremendous job of clearing piles of debris from the streets so that military traffic may enter the city.

on the east of the Main, but had been able to get a few forces as far north as the Schweinfurt-Bamberg road and thus cut that escape artery.

Now air power was called in to smash the German artillery defenses. This time it was not the P-47's, which usually fly all close support missions, but medium bombers supplied close support for ground units.

The bombers flew three raids on the city and a total of 192 planes dropped their bomb loads on its defenses. When the 88-mm. guns opened fire on the planes our artillery opened fire on them and effective counterbattery fire destroyed many of the installations which would have checked the Rainbow advance. Despite the counterbattery fire, 15 planes were damaged.

In addition to its counterbattery fire, the 42nd Division artillery also poured shells on all roads leading out of the city and prevented any mass flight of enemy troops from the city.

"Your artillery fire was terrible," said a member of a headquarters staff who fled the city, but was captured later. "I was a member of a corps intelligence section and with the corps intelligence officer I tried to leave the city during the day on a motorcycle. We tried to move in short dashes along the road, thinking that you would not fire at us, but your liaison planes saw us and directed artillery fire. Finally we stopped and waited until darkness. Then we managed to escape.

"It was possible for one or two men to escape that way by dashing from place to place, but it was suicide for a column of men to try to march down a road."

On the night of April 10 patrols from the 242nd Infantry moved across the table-top plain in front of Schweinfurt and discovered a means of entering the city by advancing through an area in which the 88-mm. guns had been either abandoned or destroyed. These patrols then returned, and at three o'clock in the morning began guiding the 242nd Infantry Regiment into the city.

The plan now was for the 232nd Infantry to strike south from the high ground north of the city and capture the upper half of Schweinfurt. The 242nd Infantry was to take the center of the town and the 222nd Infantry was to move in from the south. Thus the enemy was completely encircled, for if he moved eastward out of the city he would be cut off by the 12th Armored Division.

The 242nd Infantry, with the Third Battalion of the 222nd Infantry attached, began its attack with its First and Third Battalions abreast. As it reached the city the First Battalion met stiff resistance from enemy anti-tank guns, but the guns were quickly destroyed by bazooka fire and fire from supporting tank destroyers. The Third Battalion met opposition just before it entered the city when it was fired on by burp gunners and also received fire from a few 88-mm. guns. Mortar fire forced the enemy to withdraw, however, and the battalion entered the city. Once inside the town the regiment met little opposition and immediately sent troops racing for the river in an effort to capture the bridge. When less than two blocks from their objective there was a roar and huge puff of smoke rose over the river. The enemy had destroyed the



The buildings still smoldering, this old woman trudges through Schweinfurt in search of food. Many persons never left the city.



With a basketful of eggs, Rangers vary a "K" ration diet

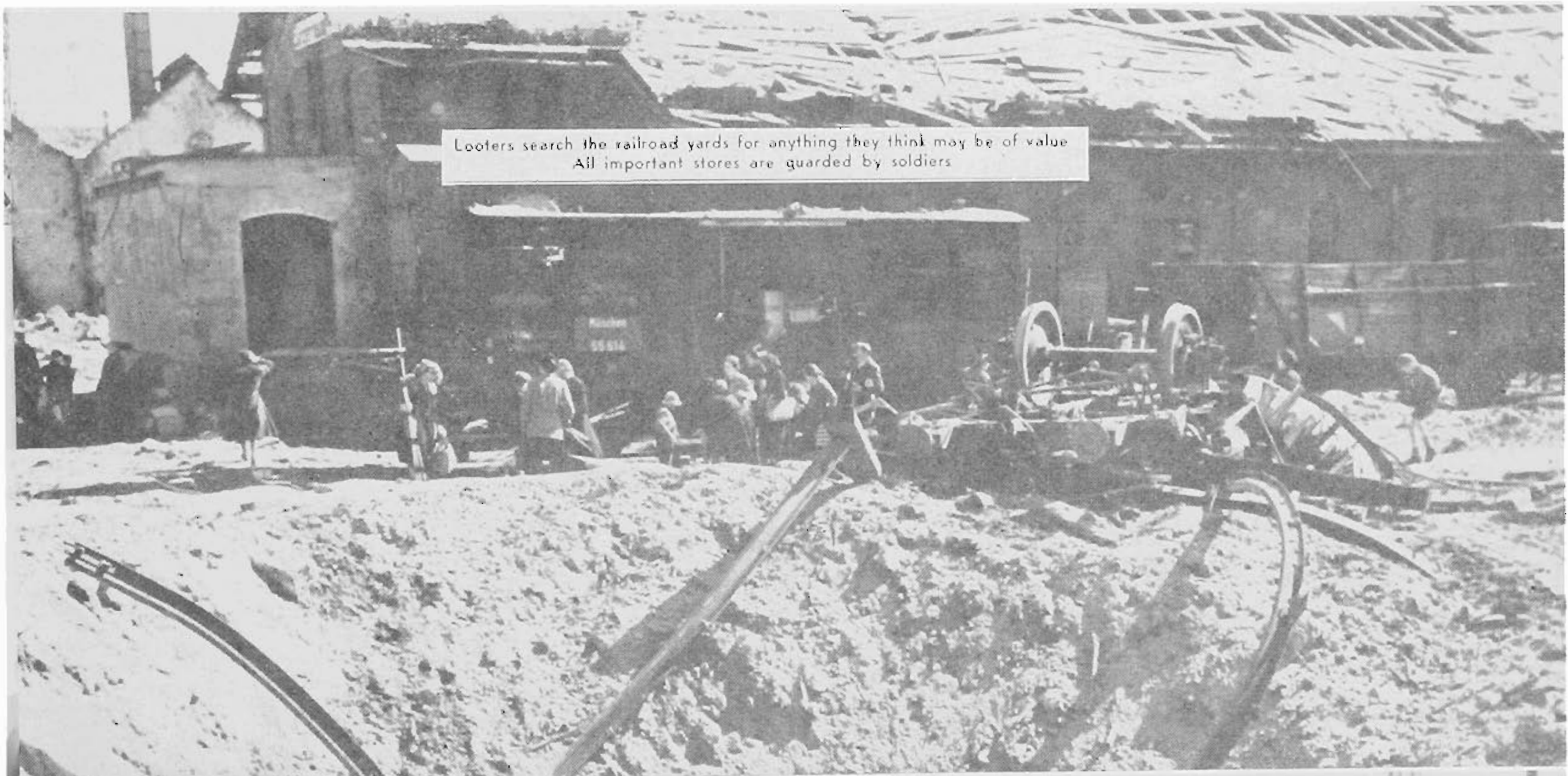


A burning car on one of the few stretches of track intact

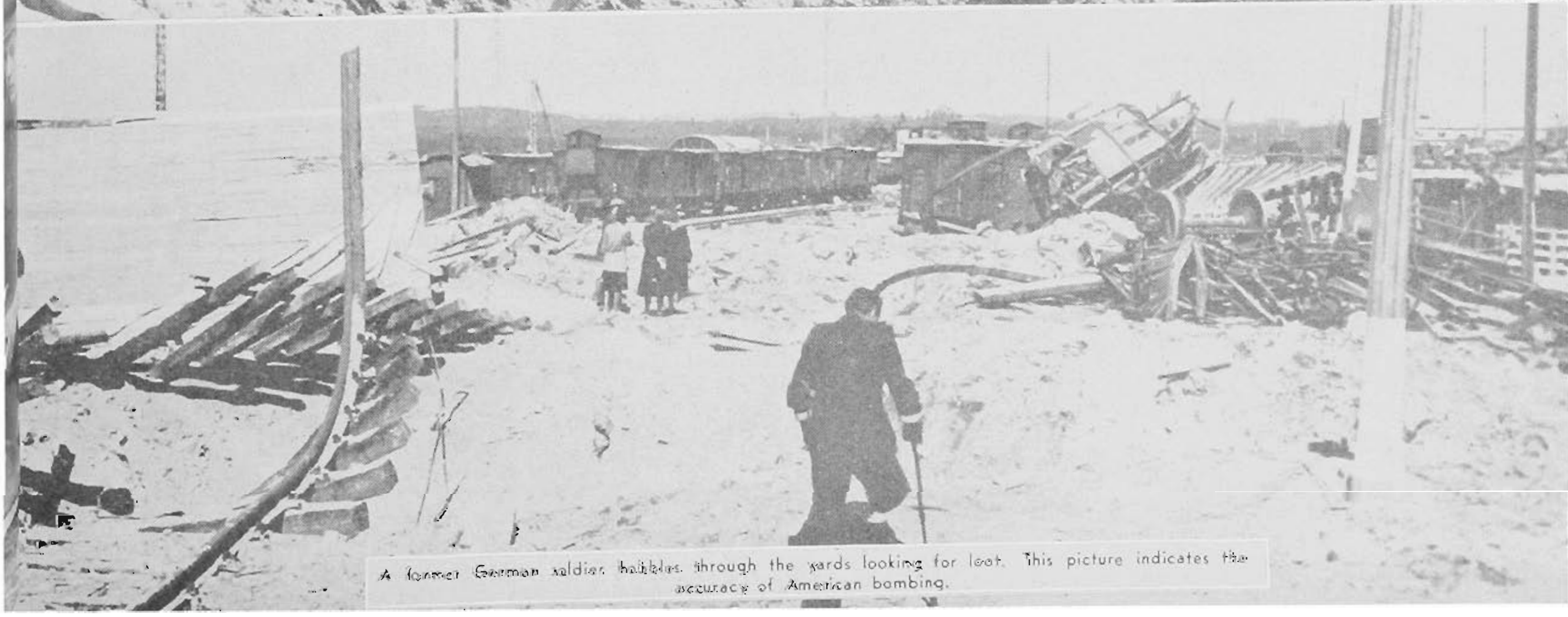
structure. He also had cut off his only hope of escape.

In the meantime, both the 222nd and the 232nd Infantry Regiments were meeting stiff opposition on the outskirts of the city. On the north the enemy was trying desperately to keep open the Schweinfurt-Bamberg escape route and although the 232nd Infantry cut the road, it had difficulty entering its section of the city and the 242nd, which was meeting only occasional sniper fire, moved into the area.

In the southern outskirts of the city a group of young fanatics were staging a last ditch stand along a railroad tracks and before an airport. They were probably the most zealous of the city's defenders, selected to hold off the Rainbowmen in the hope that their companions could escape to the north.



Looters search the railroad yards for anything they think may be of value. All important stores are guarded by soldiers



A former German soldier hobbles through the yards looking for loot. This picture indicates the accuracy of American bombing.

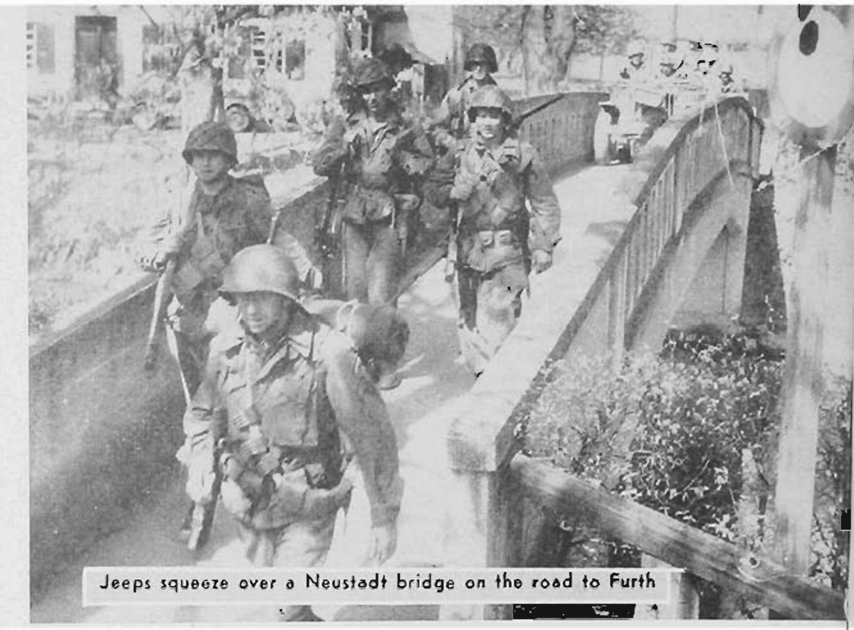


IN MEMORY OF THE PRESIDENT: Schweinfurt had just fallen when word was received of the death of President Roosevelt. Throughout the Division there were spontaneous memorial services. In the city men of the 242d gathered for prayers before the flags of all states.

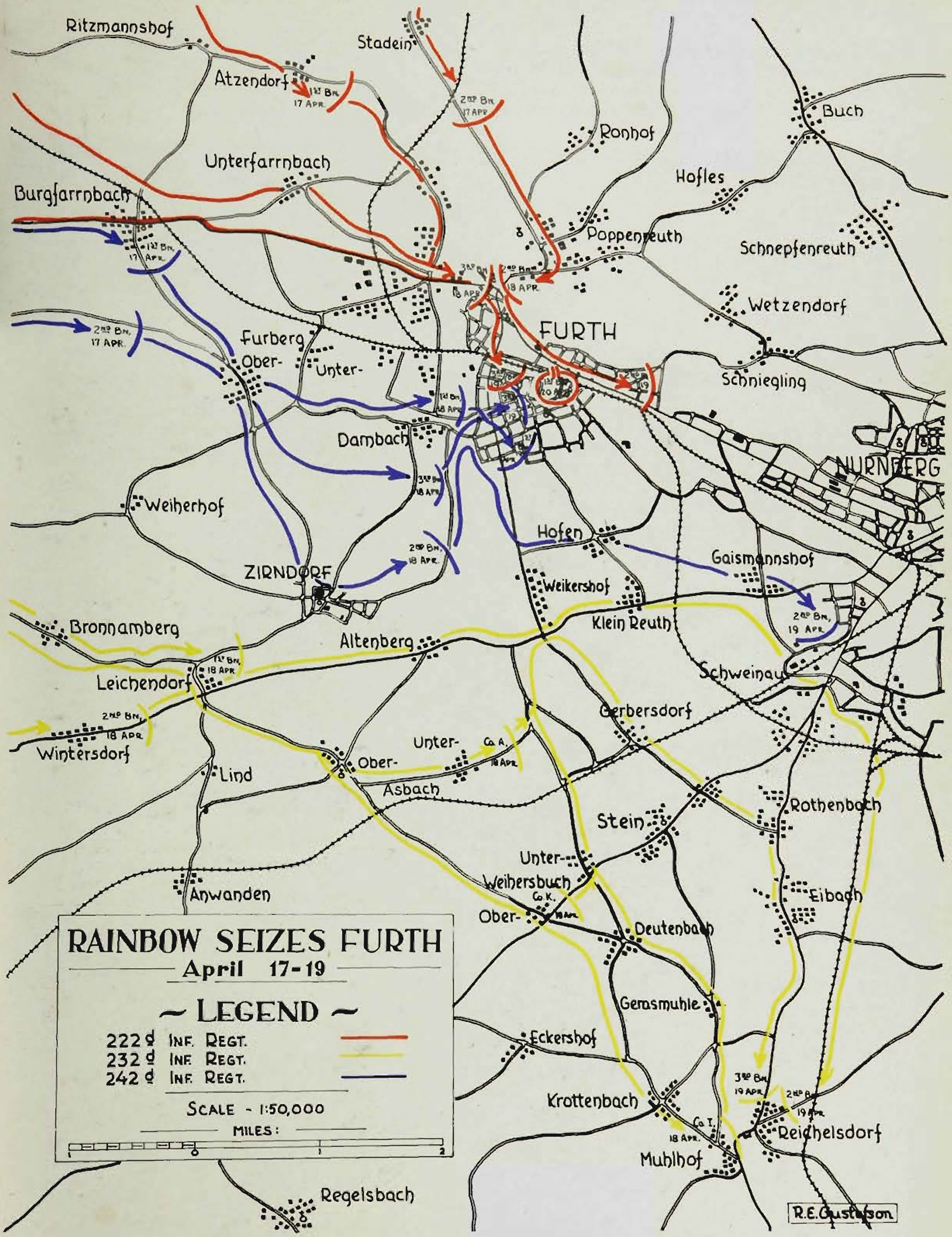


Even when they knew they were surrounded they continued to fight, but when an attack was launched from their rear they either surrendered or were killed and the regiment then moved into the city.

As they entered Schweinfurt the Rainbowmen saw a city almost entirely destroyed by bombings and artillery fire, yet the famed ball-bearing factories were still operating. True, their production was only about 30 per cent of capacity, yet despite the bombings they were in operation, with the factories manned by slave laborers. As the infantrymen captured these plants husky Polish and Russian women workers came out of bomb shelters and kissed and hugged their liberators.


Jeeps squeeze over a Neustadt bridge on the road to Furth


With six men in a jeep and four on the trailer, doughboys of the 232d advance through a white flag bedecked town in the race to Nurnberg.



RAINBOW SEIZES FURTH
April 17-19
~ LEGEND ~
222d INF. REGT.
232d INF. REGT.
242d INF. REGT.
SCALE - 1:50,000
MILES:
R.E. Gustafson
Ritzmannshof
Stadein
Atzendorf
Ronhof
Buch
Unterfarrnbach
Hofles
Burgfarrnbach
Poppenreuth
Schnepfenreuth
Wetzendorf
FURTH
Furberg
Ober-
Unter-
Schniegling
Dambach
NURNBERG
Weiherhof
Hofen
Gaismannshof
ZIRNDORF
Weikershof
Klein Reuth
Bronnamberg
Altenberg
Leichendorf
Schweinau
Gerbersdorf
Wintersdorf
Unter-
Ober-
Asbach
Lind
Rothenbach
Stein
Unter-
Weihersbuch
Anwanden
Ober-
Eibach
Deutenbach
Gerasmuhle
Eckershof
Krottenbach
Reichelsdorf
Muhlhof
Regelsbach

"I thought one girl was going to break my back she squeezed me so," said a rifleman.

Certainly the thousands of slave laborers were joyous, but just as they showed their happiness the people of Schweinfurt demonstrated their hatred of their conquerors. They had pledged a fight to the death, yet were bitter because the Americans had bombed and shelled the city. That first day



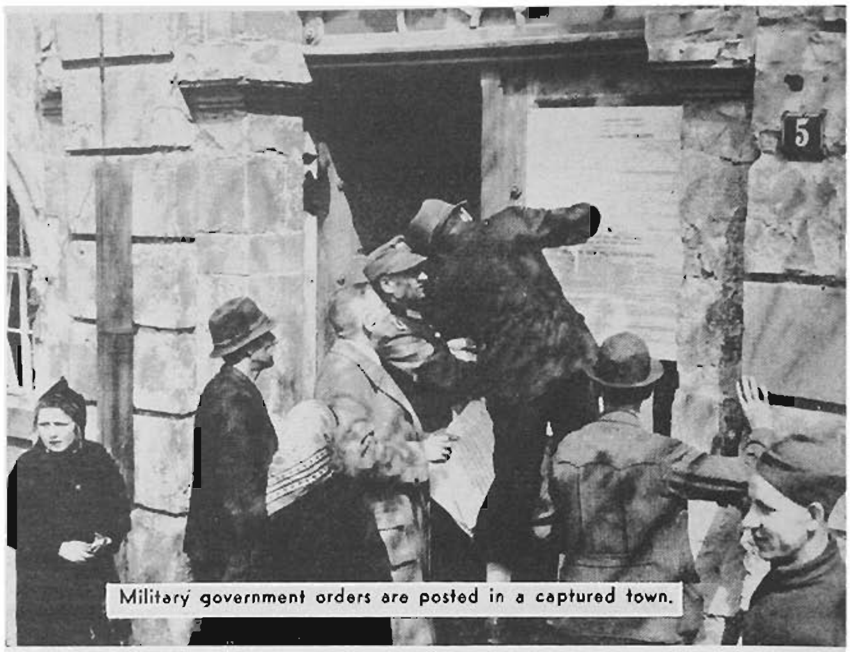
Walking through town after town, infantrymen supported by tank destroyers push ever further into the holy land of Nazidom.



Men of the 1st Battalion, 232d Infantry, enter another community. Sheets, pillow cases and diapers are the flags of surrender.

the streets of Schweinfurt were deserted. The people were fearful of the American troops. The mayor of the city committed suicide by jumping from his office window rather than carry out the instructions of the military government officers. Twenty-four hours later all appeared forgotten as the same people poured out of their homes, jammed the streets and stood in long lines for food. Already they were willing to join the winning side.

Rounded up in the city and its outskirts were 3,000 prisoners, which made a total of 6,680 German soldiers captured by the Rainbow since it left Wurzburg. During the same time the Division cleared 100 square miles of Nazi territory and captured 50 towns and villages.



Military government orders are posted in a captured town.

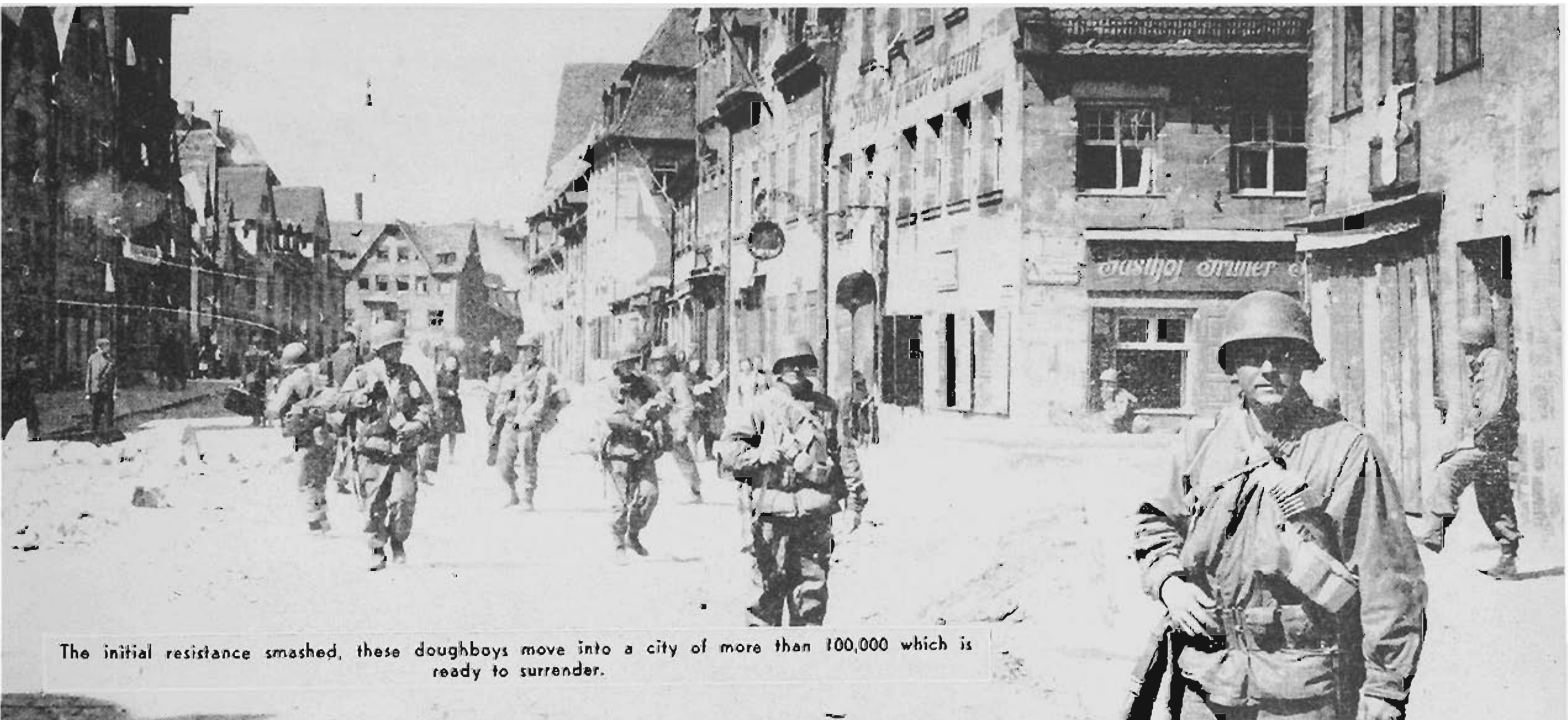


When Furth was reached the men of Company K, 222d, fought their way over this blown bridge into the city and prisoners march back.

On April 13 while 222nd and 242nd Infantry Regiments were still mopping up in Schweinfurt and the 232nd Infantry was assembling north of the city word was received of the death of President Franklin D. Roosevelt. Throughout the Division, chaplains held memorial services for the President and at Schweinfurt men of the 242nd Infantry gathered amid the rubble and prayed at a brief service for their Commander-in-Chief. It was a strange gathering in which those weary infantrymen participated. The backdrop was a bomb-blasted theater, before which stood the flags of the 48 states. In all windows and the surrounding rooftops riflemen were posted to guard against sniper attacks. The Division chaplain said a prayer and General Collins spoke.

"Both the Army and the nation has lost a great leader," he said. "We feel that we have lost a friend and mourn that he will not be with us to see the final victory which is near."

That same day the Division received orders from XXI Corps directing that it turn southeast and attack the city of Furth, the western third of the Nazi shrine city of Nurnberg. The Rainbow was also to assist the XV Corps in the capture of Nurnberg. This was the city that was the stronghold of Nazism. Here if anywhere it was believed that the Germans would put up a fight. Although the Nazi party was born in Munich, it was in Nurnberg



The initial resistance smashed, these doughboys move into a city of more than 100,000 which is ready to surrender.



Through Furth, the western third of Nurnberg, advance the infantry. Civilians are put to work removing a road block.



Ordered to turn in weapons, frightened civilians pile up uniforms, gas masks, helmets, anything issued by the Nazis.

that it grew. The city of Furth, which normally has a population of about 100,000 adjoins Nurnberg and is as much a part of it as is the Bronx a part of New York City.

To capture these dual strongholds of Naziism a five-division attack was planned. The Rainbow was to attack from the west against Furth, the Third Infantry Division was to strike from the north, the 45th Infantry Division from the east and the 4th Infantry Division and the 12th Armored Division from the south.

Now the Rainbow was to advance into the holy ground of Naziism. It was to strike swiftly, before the Germans had a chance to rally a defense, with its axis of advance along the broad, straight Wurzburg-Nurnberg road.

The Division now moved south from Schweinfurt and again crossed the Main River, this time at Nordheim. It then spread out on a 25-mile front and advanced with the 222nd Infantry on the left of the Wurzburg-Nurnberg road and the 232nd Infantry on the right. The 242nd Infantry was in division reserve. The 42nd Reconnaissance Troop conducted motorized patrols on the Division left flank and maintained contact with the 3rd Infantry Division.

Loaded on trucks and jeeps and trailers and with patrols screening the area before them the two regiments raced ahead without contact with the enemy until they neared the town of Neustadt on the Aisch River, a historic strongpoint in the defense of Nurnberg. Here the enemy had decided to put up his fists to fight for the shrine city.

The enemy had strength in Neustadt, not sufficient to stop a Division advance, but enough to delay it and inflict casualties. General Collins had the choice of either ordering a direct assault on the town, which would save time but cost lives, or encircling it and forcing it to fall with little opposition. To gain the objective with the absolute minimum of casualties was always his policy and once again he chose to surround the enemy.

To accomplish this the First Battalion of the 222nd Infantry moved to the north of the town.

At 1200 on April 16 the Second Battalion, 232nd Infantry, seized the high ground south of the town and CCA of the 12th Armored Division moved up to join in the assault. At 0530 the Second and Third Battalions of the 232nd Infantry attacked across the Aisch River against light opposition and elements of CCA moved into the town. The enemy, realizing they were surrounded on three sides and had no hope of victory, either withdrew or surrendered.

The Division again pushed forward and on the same day advanced six miles past Neustadt. The 242nd Infantry was now brought forward and moved into the line between the other two regiments. Higher headquarters now changed the plan of attack of Nurnberg slightly. Instead of heading directly for the city, the 12th Armored Division and the 4th Infantry were directed to swing more to the south and strike out for the Danube River and Munich. The 232nd Infantry was directed to move to the south of the city and cut the Nurnberg-Munich road. The 222nd and the 242nd Regiments were to make the assault on Furth.

At dawn on April 17 the Rainbow renewed its advance with a three regiment front. The 222nd Infantry attacked at 0400 with the Second Battalion on the left, the First Battalion on the right and the Third Battalion in reserve. Against light opposition the regiment raced ahead and reached the Regnitz River north of Furth and near the town of Vach. There the Second Battalion forced a crossing against enemy small arms fire and established a firm bridgehead. The First Battalion captured a large airfield north of the city and aggressive combat patrols were sent out by the regiment during the night to probe the enemy defenses of Furth.

In the meantime, the 232nd Infantry was advancing with the Second Battalion on the right, the Third on the left and the First in reserve. Initially the advance met no resistance, but as the regiment neared Furth it began to receive mortar and small arms fire. On this day the regiment captured the tiny farm community of Cadolsburg, where the Nazi Jew-baiter Julius Streicher had a farm. Streicher himself had fled only a few hours before the Rainbowmen arrived. In the center of the Division attack the 242nd Infantry was also advancing with the First and Second Battalions abreast and the Third in reserve. By nightfall patrols had reached the Regnitz on the western outskirts of Furth.

Now the Division stood poised for the assault on Furth. To the north, moving southward on the city, was the Second Battalion of the 222nd. On the western outskirts and advancing toward the city were the First and Third Battalions of the same Regiment. The 242nd Infantry was moving east toward the southern portion of the city and the 232nd Infantry was driving to cut all southern escape routes from Nurnberg.

In the city itself there was confusion. This was no small town, but a city crowded with refugees and with a population of more than 150,000. In it were approximately 7,500 troops consisting of miscellaneous army units which had been fleeing before the Division's advance, stragglers from units which had been destroyed and Volkstrum who had been training for years in the defense of their city. Civilian authorities wanted to surrender, the army did not. The military plan was for the soldiers to stage a stubborn defense of the approaches to the city and then withdraw into Nurnberg for a last ditch fight there. While these defenders lacked artillery, they had small arms and automatic weapons and quantities of ammunition.

Road blocks had been prepared throughout the city. Street cars had been derailed and dragged across the streets. Barriers had been built with logs and huge pieces of scrap iron and steel. All bridges had been blown.

The order had been issued for the German withdrawal. They were to defend until nightfall of April 19 and then they were to retreat to Nurnberg. With 7,500 men from Furth the Nazis would be able to stage a strong defense in Nurnberg.

The Rainbow was to spoil their plans, however. They had counted on an attack on April 19, but the Division advance had been faster than the enemy had believed possible and on the morning of April 18 the Division struck.

Supported by artillery fire which had been pouring into the western limits of the city during the night, the Second Battalion of the 222nd Infantry crossed the Regnitz River, which flowed along the northern outskirts of the city, and entered Furth. At the same time, Company K of the 222nd Infantry led elements of the Third Battalion over the twisted steel girders of a blown bridge and entered the northeastern portion of the city. Now the defenders battled fanatically to prevent the enlargement of these two bridgeheads, but the Rainbowmen pushed ahead and cleared building after building so that by midnight they occupied six square blocks of the city.

Moving now with its three battalions abreast over a wide front the 242nd Infantry reached the Regnitz in force and the 232nd Infantry cut all southern escape routes from Nurnberg.

At three o'clock on the morning of April 19 the Third Battalion of the 242nd Infantry crossed the Regnitz River near Dambach and with the First

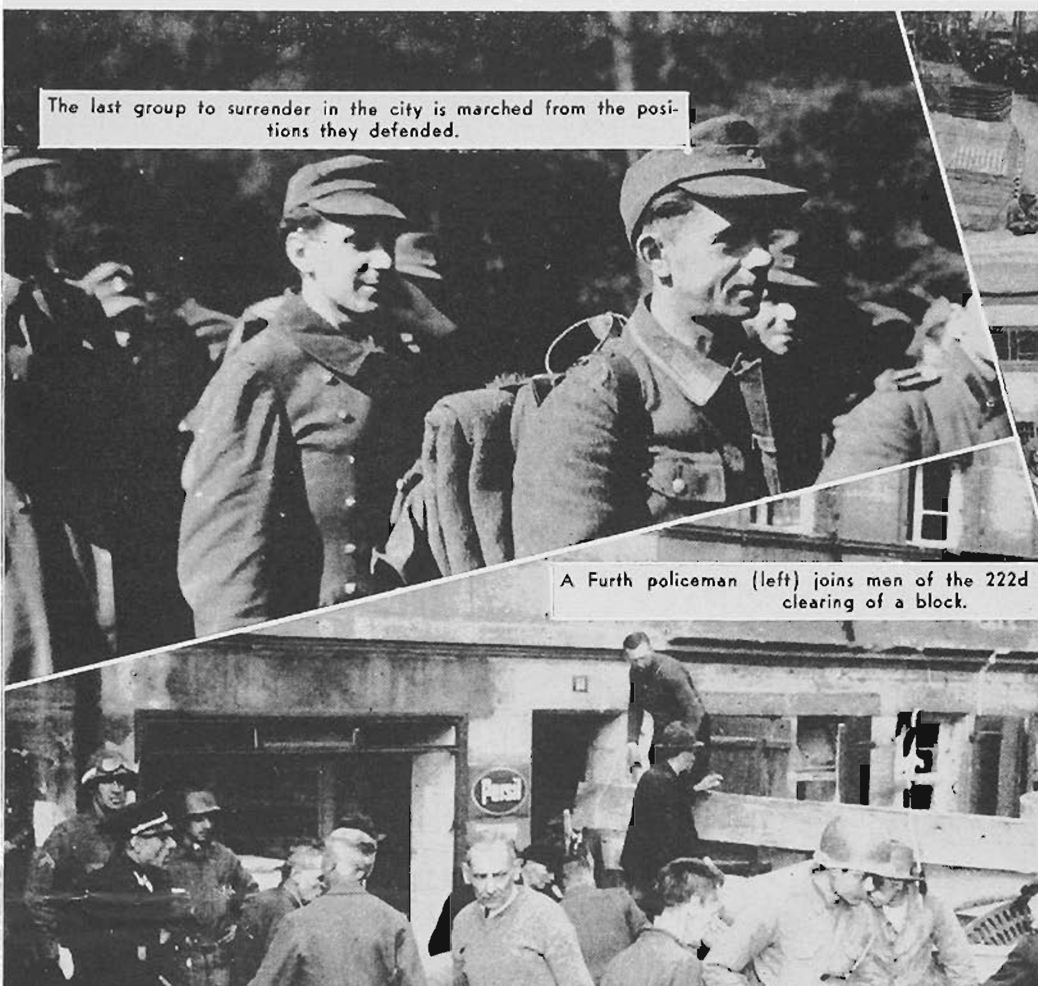
Battalion following, it entered Furth. Now the 222nd Infantry pushed forward and early that morning the burgomeister of Furth surrendered the city to officers of Company K, 222nd Infantry. Placed in a jeep he then rode through the city's streets shouting to the people to lay down their arms and hang out white flags.

The 222nd and 242nd Regiments now moved into the city and began the task of rounding up prisoners. The city had fallen before the time ordered for their retreat. Dazed and confused, 5,000 surrendered. Had their plan of withdrawal been effected they would have been able to stage a fierce defense amid the rubble of Nurnberg, already well defended by SS troopers.

Rainbowmen advancing through the city found the attitude of the people in sharp contrast to that of the citizens of Schweinfurt. So eager were they



The same civilians who built these road blocks now remove them.

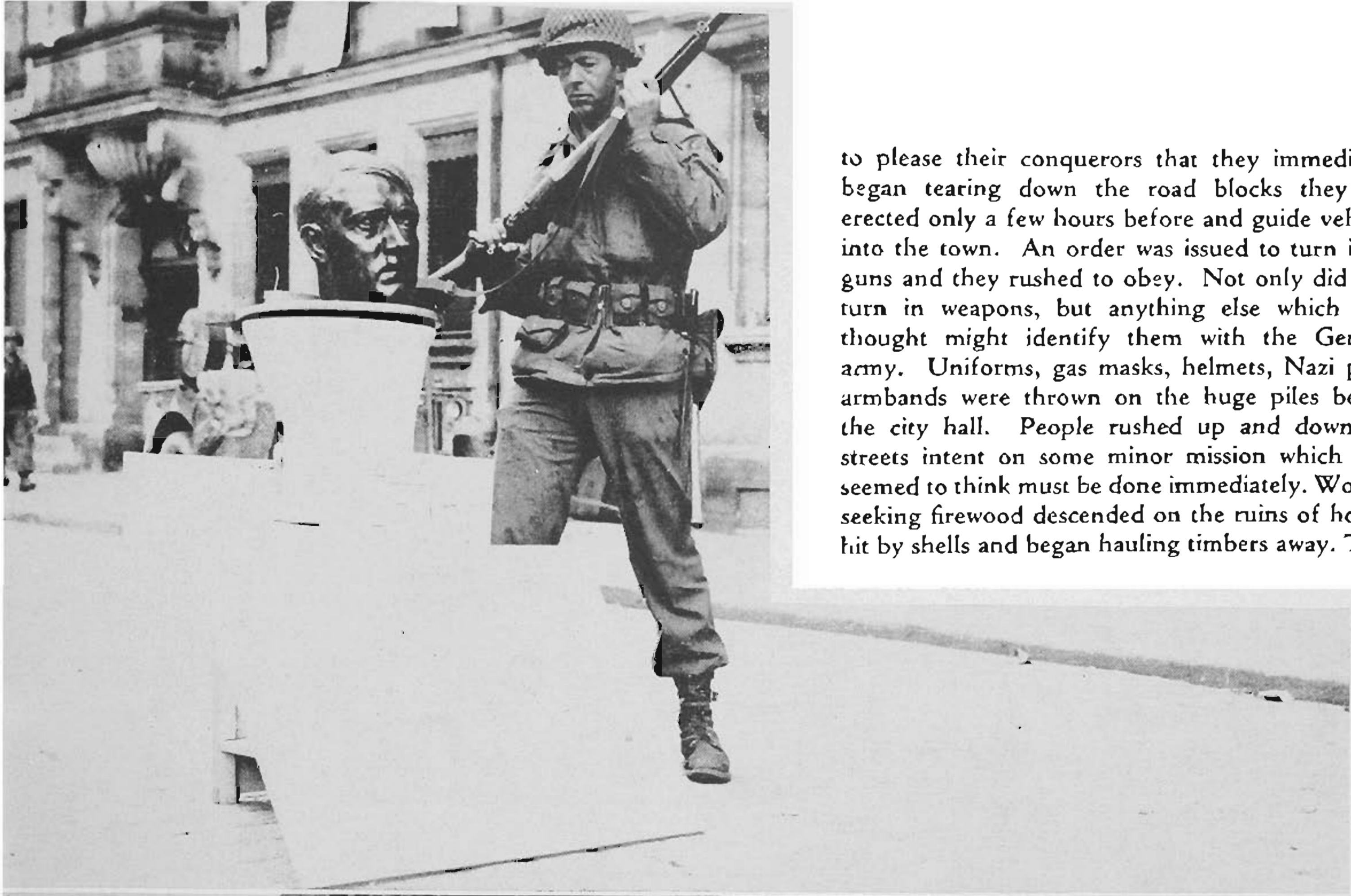


The last group to surrender in the city is marched from the positions they defended.





A Furth policeman (left) joins men of the 222d in directing the clearing of a block.



to please their conquerors that they immediately began tearing down the road blocks they had erected only a few hours before and guide vehicles into the town. An order was issued to turn in all guns and they rushed to obey. Not only did they turn in weapons, but anything else which they thought might identify them with the German army. Uniforms, gas masks, helmets, Nazi party armbands were thrown on the huge piles before the city hall. People rushed up and down the streets intent on some minor mission which they seemed to think must be done immediately. Women seeking firewood descended on the ruins of houses hit by shells and began hauling timbers away. They



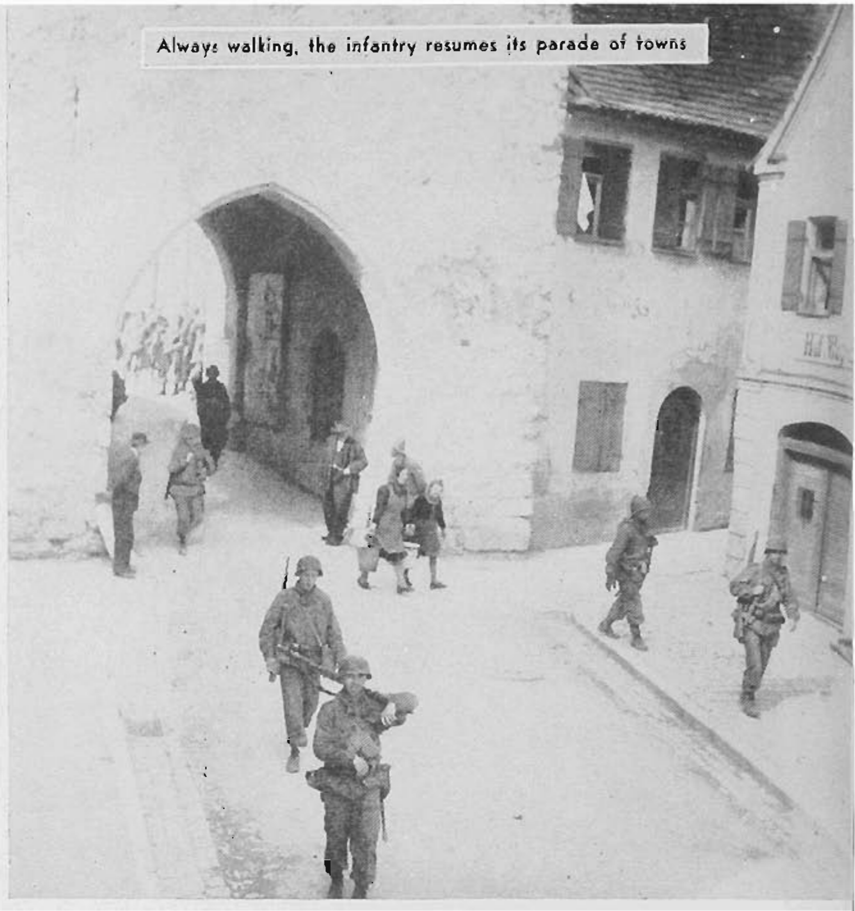
seemed to take no interest in the fighting still raging in Nurnberg. These same people who had cheered Hitler were now ready to cheer the armies who destroyed him.

They had seen it before, but here again Rainbowmen saw how completely the people ignored their own men who were being marched through the streets as prisoners of war. They didn't cheer them, as might have been expected, nor did they jeer because they had failed to defend the city. They seemed to take no notice of them. They gazed in curiosity upon the Americans, but for their own troops they had hardly a glance. Here and there a woman waved, but there were few tears as these men marched off to prison camps. Perhaps they thought them fortunate, for so many other men had died. They at least had a chance to return to their homes.

Now the Rainbow was attached to the XV Corps and no sooner had Furth fallen than the Division received orders to advance to the south and "seize and hold crossings of the Danube River, and be prepared for a further advance south on Corps order." On the right of the Division was the 12th Armored. On the left was the 106th Cavalry Group.

The route of the Division's advance lead directly toward the famed German "Redoubt" area in the Alps where Hitler would supposedly make his last stand and where the SS were to fight to the last man. In this Redoubt the spirit of Naziism was to be kept alive and here Der Feuhrer was to reorganize his army and continue the war.

Against the American army advancing toward this area the SS had organized a rear guard action intended to check the Allies until they could hole up in their retreat. Foxholes had been dug by slave laborers and townspeople all along the roads and on all strategic high ground. SS men and officers were ranging back and forth across the country



Always walking, the infantry resumes its parade of towns





From Nurnberg to Munich the Nazis fought a rear-guard action, briefly defending such towns as this, then retreating to the next.

gathering together stragglers from various German army units, organizing them into squads, platoons or companies and ordering them to defend this town or woods or crossroads. If they failed to fight, promised the SS, they would be shot in the back, or killed by the Storm Troopers when they returned. More than one man fired a machine gun from an exposed position with an SS man hidden 200 or 300 yards behind him with a rifle trained on his back. So feared were these SS men that many people actually looked upon the American soldiers as saviors and were fearful that if the Americans went on after capturing a town the SS would come back and kill them.

Shortly after one small town was captured the burgomeister rushed up to the company commander and pleaded that he send some men over to a nearby community and capture it also.

"Those are my people there, too," he said. "If you don't send men the SS will kill everyone in it."

Troops were sent to the neighboring town and so grateful were the townspeople that they wanted to give a banquet for the Americans.

Although many times welcomed by the Bavarian farmers, the Rainbow was nevertheless to receive some stiff opposition from groups of SS and the men they forced to fight. At Donauworth, a small city on the Danube and a key to the Redoubt defenses, they were to fight a fierce battle.

Into this area the Division moved on April 21 with the 232nd Infantry on the left of the Division zone and the 242nd Infantry on the right. Advancing by shuttling with their motors the two regiments moved approximately 16 miles that first day, meeting and overcoming spotty resistance. Many men walked all the way and there were many infantrymen who had walked ever since the Rainbow detrucked after crossing the Rhine. The Division had been advancing and fighting day and night and the men were tired. Yet they continued to push ahead. It didn't seem possible that the war would last much longer.

The following day the Division advanced another 10 miles, brushing aside all resistance and captured two bridges intact across the Altmuhl River. So swift had been the advance that the enemy did not have time to blow them. With the 222nd Infantry continuing as division reserve the other two regiments maintained their rapid advance on April 23 and made gains of up to 15 miles. On that same day the Rainbow was given the mission of crossing both the Danube and Lech Rivers near Donauworth and the 27th Tank Battalion of the 20th Armored Division was attached to the Division.

Now as the Division moved ever nearer to the Danube and Donauworth it became evident that the Germans were going to stage a fight in that city, which had a bridge across the river and was one of the outposts of the Redoubt defense area.

The roads in front of the Division were mined and the First Battalion of the 232nd Infantry had a stiff fight in capturing the town of Dockingen against artillery and small arms fire.

Advancing over poor roads and through difficult terrain the Rainbow continued to push ahead with a speed which stretched supply lines to the limit. Trucks of the 42nd Quartermaster Company were now hauling supplies from dumps 200 miles to the rear and regimental and artillery supply elements were relaying them forward. So well did all service units do their job that not once was the Division delayed because of a lack of fuel, ammunition or food.

The communication problems were tremendous. Men of the 132nd Signal Company were working day and night laying wire and maintaining wire and radio communications. The Division Command Post was constantly moving, not just once a day, but two and even three times a day, and all other command posts were doing the same, or moving even more frequently. No sooner were communications installed in one post than the crews moved ahead to put wire into the next.

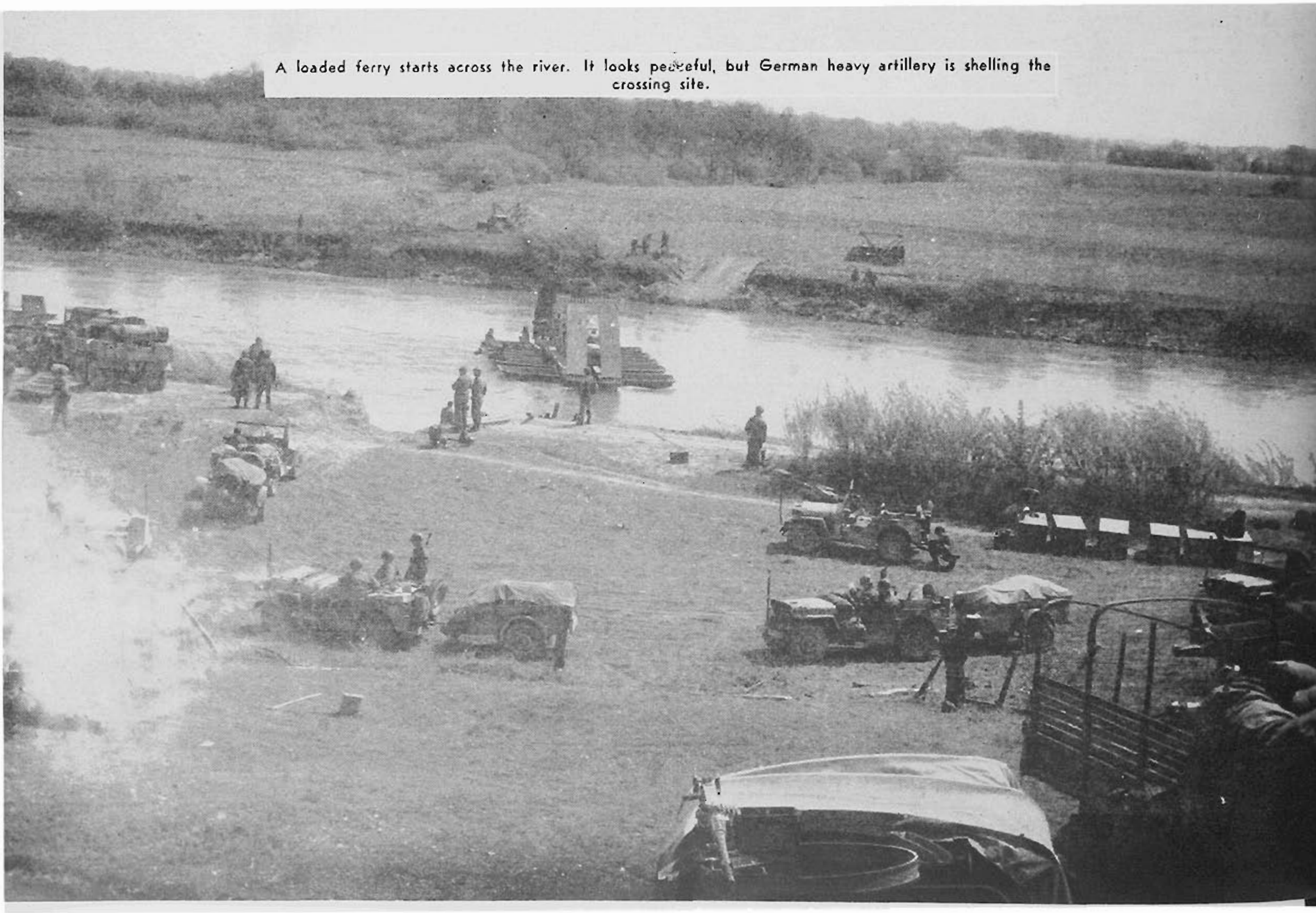
Engineers of the 142nd Engineer Battalion were sweeping roads for mines, filling in craters, repairing bridges. Both the combat infantrymen and the men in the Rainbow's service elements went for two days or more without sleep and then would get perhaps a few hours rest and return to their jobs.

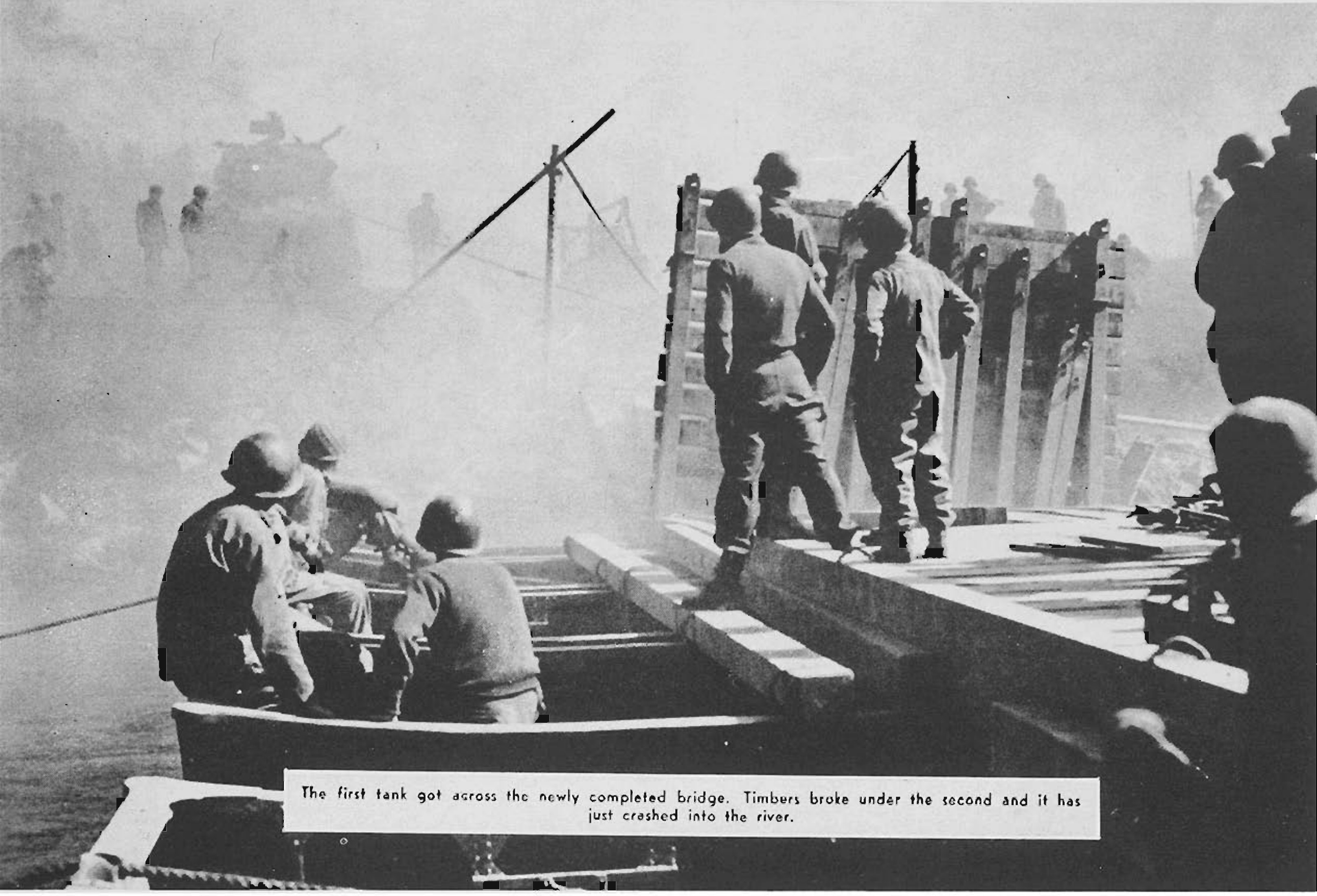
The Division was advancing swiftly, but as it moved forward it remained a unified, complete fighting machine because every man did his job even though he sometimes neared exhaustion.

On the morning of April 25 the Rainbow launched its assault on Donauworth, reported to be defended by about 700 Germans, the majority of them SS troops. To capture the city a special task force was organized under the control of the commanding officer of the 27th Tank Battalion, and Lieutenant Colonal Donald E. Downard, Commanding Officer of the Second Battalion, 222nd Infantry, was named executive officer. This force consisted of Companies B, C, and D of the Tank Battalion, Companies E and F of the 222nd Infantry, Company G of the 242nd Infantry, two platoons of Company A, 142nd Engineers, and two platoons of Company A, 692nd Tank Destroyer Battalion.

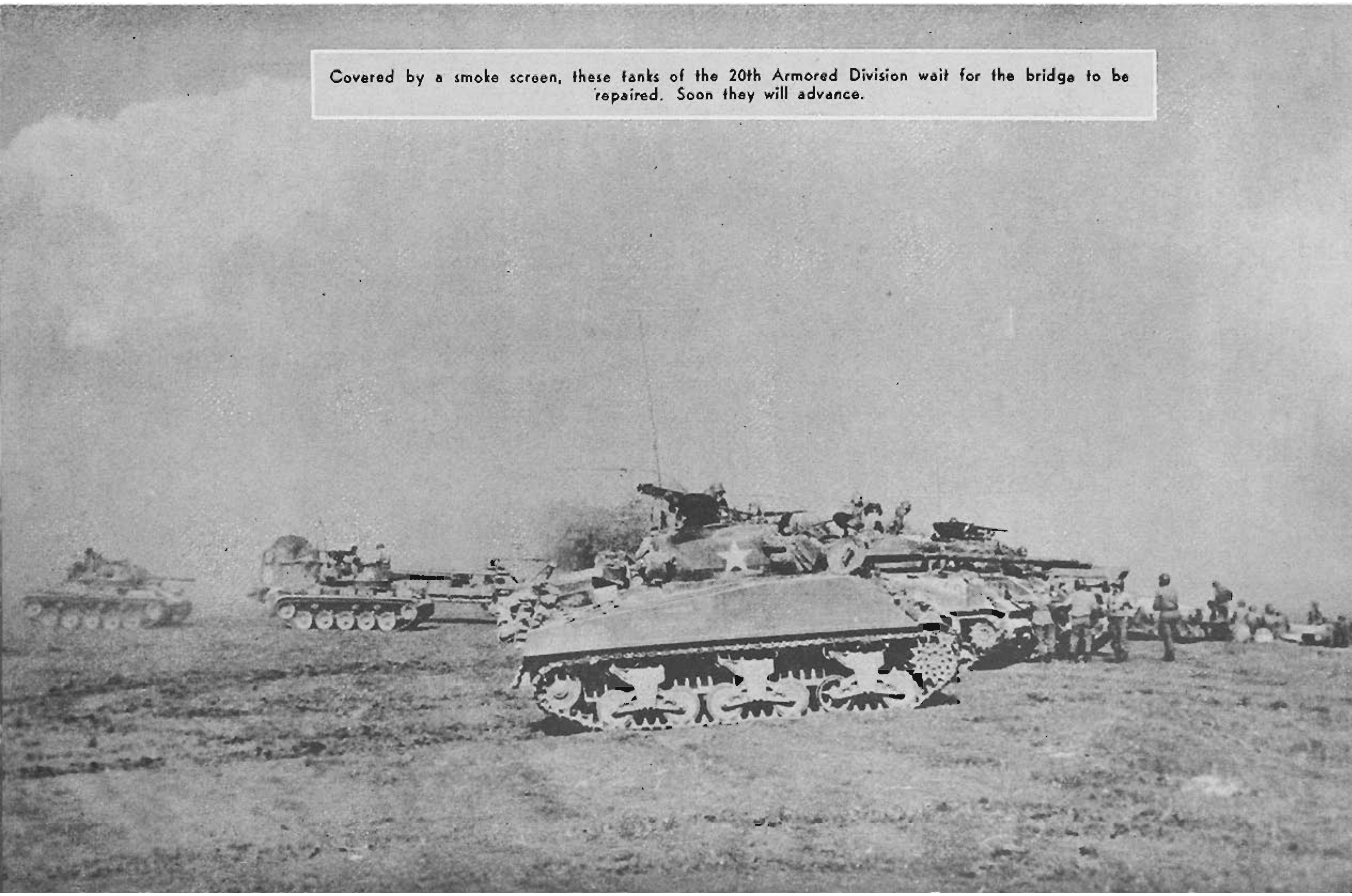
The plan was to launch a two-pronged attack upon the city with one column of tanks ridden by infantry striking from the north along the road leading into the city and the other column driving


First in the Corps to reach the Danube, infantry crossed in assault boats. Jeeps are ferried over while a bridge is being built.


A loaded ferry starts across the river. It looks peaceful, but German heavy artillery is shelling the crossing site.



The first tank got across the newly completed bridge. Timbers broke under the second and it has just crashed into the river.

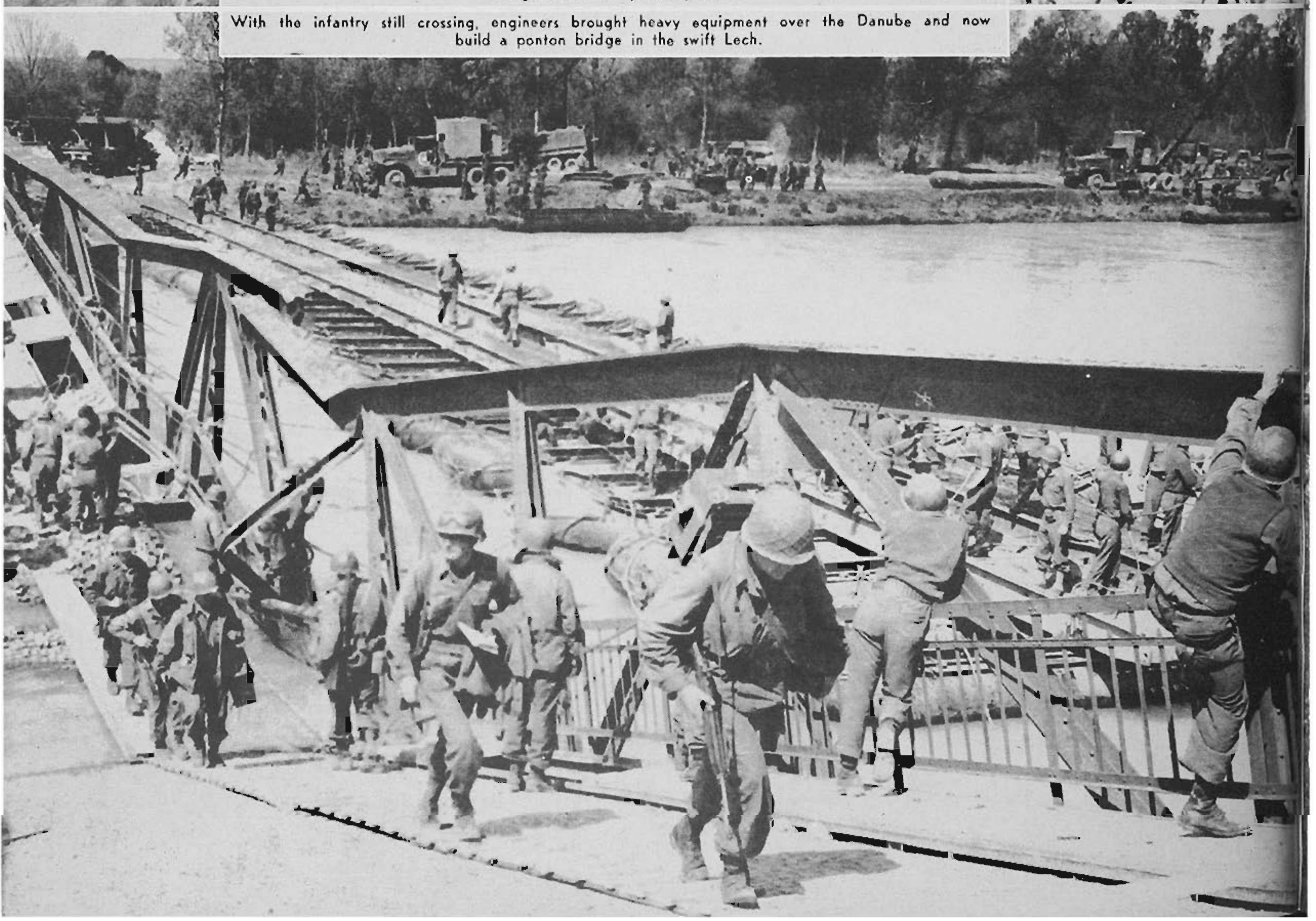


Covered by a smoke screen, these tanks of the 20th Armored Division wait for the bridge to be repaired. Soon they will advance.



While the Danube bridge was being built infantry reached the Lech River, crossed the blown bridge under heavy enemy fire.

With the infantry still crossing, engineers brought heavy equipment over the Danube and now build a ponton bridge in the swift Lech.





Dead Germans on the road to Dachau, part of a platoon of SS

eastward to the Danube River and then west along a river road and into the city. This second column, commanded by Colonel Downard, would prevent the enemy escaping to the east.

The attack began at 0700 and caught the Germans by surprise. They had expected a slower advance by infantry on foot. When the tank column under Colonel Downard reached the road paralleling the river they found enemy on the far side of the Danube fleeing across an open plain. With infantrymen firing their rifles and the machine guns of the tanks blazing the column roared along the



A platoon of the 222d Infantry creeps up behind a fence on the SS men pictured above, whose fire was delaying a company's advance.

road toward Donauworth, leaving the open ground opposite it littered with enemy dead.

The two columns reached the city almost simultaneously, but as they neared the outskirts the Nazis set off a series of charges which destroyed the bridge across the river. All others in the Division zone had been blown previously and now the Germans north of the river had no choice but to fight.

The men left behind to battle for this key town were picked troops, experienced and determined. They knew they could do no more than delay the



Surrounded, some of the enemy drop their guns, surrender.



These SS troopers were caught by a squad behind the hill. All were killed. Note the bicycles they used as transportation.


Children carry their wounded mother to an aid station

Rainbow's advance, yet they had no thought of surrender. With the roads mined, the Germans battled the tanks and infantrymen. The tankers were fighting their first battle and in the first five minutes of the fight three tanks were destroyed by huge mines. Protected by the infantrymen, the tanks nevertheless, pushed forward and for six hours house-to-house fighting raged. For the Germans and the Rainbowmen it was a battle to the death. When the fight was over and the task force had captured the city it took only 17 prisoners.

By nightfall that same day the Second and Third


Liberated prisoners at a Nazi camp near Aichach cheer Rainbow soldiers who freed them in their advance. Many were PWs five years.

Battalions of the 242nd Infantry had reached Donauworth, the First Battalion of the same regiment had reached the river just to the east of the city and the Second and Third Battalions of the 232nd Infantry were at the river near the towns of Altisheim and Leitheim. The First Battalion was just slightly to the rear of them and the 222nd Infantry was in Division reserve.

Although it had advanced against the heaviest opposition and through the poorest road net in the Corps Zone, the Rainbow Division was the first unit in the XV Corps to reach the Danube. It immediately began its crossing and the drive for Munich, the birthplace of the Nazi party.

With the artillery pouring fire across the river the 242nd Infantry began its crossing at 0045 on April 26. Crossing in the first assault boats, manned by men of Company C, 142nd Engineers, were elements of the First Battalion. There was no resistance and the First Battalion rapidly expanded a bridgehead. The Third Battalion next made the crossing, passed through the First and headed for the Lech River. The Second Battalion remained behind in Donauworth.

East of the spot where the 242nd Infantry made its crossing the 232nd Infantry was also making a bridgehead. This regiment began its attack at 0300 with the men of the Second Battalion riding in assault boats manned by Company B, 142nd Engineers. The first company crossed the river in 12 minutes and the remainder of the battalion followed rapidly. The Third Battalion then followed and behind it came the First. The Battalions pushed south for two miles and then turned and raced for the Lech, four miles away.

At daylight the Germans began shelling the crossing sites, but despite this ferries were constructed and vehicles were taken across the river. Working under a smoke screen, engineers of the 109th Engineer Battalion began construction of a treadway bridge across the river. Late that afternoon the bridge was completed, but the first tank over it crashed through the far end into the river and it had to be repaired and strengthened. By nightfall, however, traffic was rolling across it.

By this time the infantrymen had reached the swift-flowing Lech River, where they found all bridges destroyed. Here, too, the river was so swift that a crossing in assault boats was impossible and the enemy was resisting on the other side. Fortunately, however, the Germans had not accomplished the destruction of all the bridges with their usual thoroughness. Immediately east of the town of Genderkingen patrols of the Second Battalion of the 232nd Infantry found that a large steel bridge had dropped into the water but could be made passable for foot troops if assault boats and planking were placed in two places where it was under water.

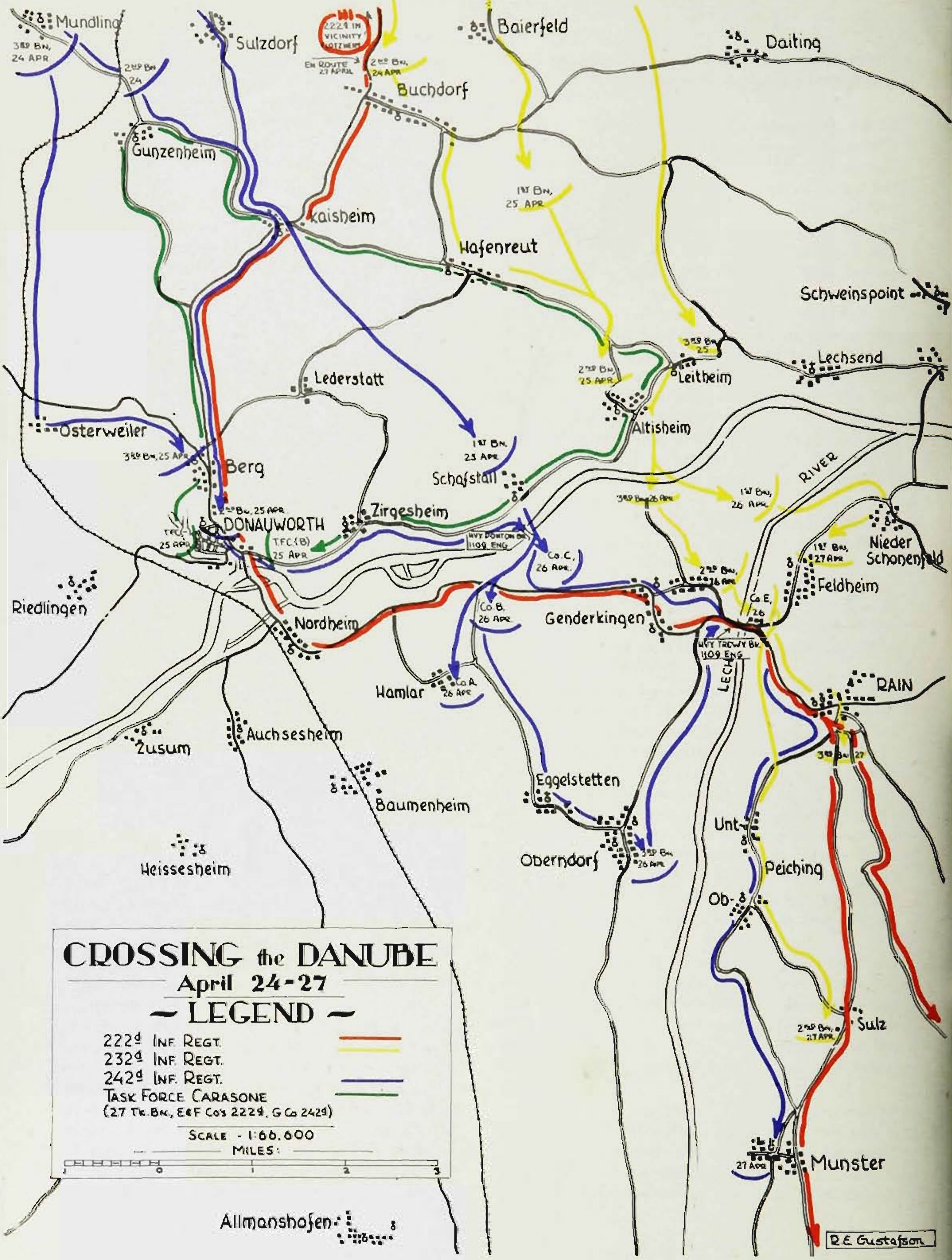
Under enemy fire, men of Company B, 142nd Engineers, moved out on the bridge and began the job of repairing the structure. Although several were wounded, the others remained at their posts and working in the darkness completed the job before midnight. Troops of the Second Battalion then crossed the river to force the Rainbow's second major river crossing in 24 hours. Once across, the battalion met stiff resistance and was forced to turn south to eliminate it rather than continue on to its initial objective of the town of Rain. The Third Battalion closely followed the second across the river, however, and moved east and captured Rain. The First Battalion crossed the bridge before morning and swung northward to establish that side of the bridgehead. During the day engineers constructed a treadway bridge beside the original structure and the balance of the Division moved across.

The Rainbow Division was now headed directly south for Munich with the last serious obstacle overcome. The right boundary of the Division was the autobahn leading into the city and on the other side was the Third Infantry Division. On the Division's left was the 45th Infantry Division and the boundary led through the famous Nazi concentration camp of Dachau.

That word, Dachau, is one which few men of the Rainbow will ever forget. They had heard of Nazi concentration camps and believed or half-believed the stories of the SS atrocities and brutalities conducted in them. Soon they were to see the most famous of all German horror prisons. The oldest such camp in Germany, its very name was feared. Men and women who entered those massive stone gates as prisoners never came out. Inside them was practiced systematic murder. Men who had seen friends die and witnessed all the horrors of war were to turn pale and sick at what they saw at Dachau.

From the time it crossed the Lech River the Rainbow was actually engaged in a race with the 3rd and 45th Division to reach Munich. Resistance had now nearly ceased. There were reports of an uprising in Munich and the greatest obstacles in the Division advance were blown bridges and inadequate roads.

Just after crossing the Lech the Division received instructions that the 20th Armored Division was to pass through it and lead the attack to the south. The Rainbow was directed to follow the armor closely with one regimental combat team motorized.



CROSSING the DANUBE
April 24-27
~ LEGEND ~
222d INF. REGT.
232d INF. REGT.
242d INF. REGT.
TASK FORCE CARASONE
(27 TK. BN., E&F COS 222d, G CO 242d)
SCALE - 1:66,600
MILES:
Mundling
3RD BN, 24 APR
2ND BN 24
Sulzdorf
222d IN VICINITY
EN ROUTE 27 APRIL
2ND BN, 24 APR
Baierfeld
Daiting
Buchdorf
Gunzenheim
Kaisheim
1ST BN, 25 APR
Hafenreut
Schweinspoint
3RD BN 25
Lechsend
2ND BN 25 APR
Leitheim
Lederstatt
Altisheim
Osterweiler
3RD BN, 25 APR
Berg
1ST BN. 25 APR
Schafstall
RIVER
3RD BN 26 APR
1ST BN, 26 APR
2ND BN, 25 APR
DONAUWORTH
Zirgesheim
T.F.C. 25 APR
T.F.C. (B) 25 APR
HVY PONTON BR 1109 ENG
Co. C, 26 APR
1ST BN, 27 APR
Nieder Schonenfeld
2ND BN, 26 APR
Feldheim
Riedlingen
Co. B. 26 APR
Genderkingen
Co. E, 26
Nordheim
HVY TRDWY BR. 1109 ENG
LECH
Hamlar
Co. A. 26 APR
RAIN
Zusum
Auchsesheim
3RD BN 27
Baumenheim
Eggelstetten
Unt-
Oberndorf
3RD BN 26 APR
Peiching
Heissesheim
Ob-
2ND BN, 27 APR
Sulz
27 APR
Munster
Allmanshofen
R.E. Gustafson



DACHAU! The very name of this camp meant horror. Inside these gates thousands who opposed Hitler were tortured and murdered.

The 222nd Infantry passed through the 232nd Infantry and led the Division attack southward.

On April 28 the 20th Armored Division passed through the Rainbow, but units of the Division continued to advance, with the 242nd Infantry advancing on the right and 222nd Infantry on the left. Blown bridges and cratered roads made it impossible for the armor to race ahead as fast as planned.

At 0500 on April 29 regimental combat teams were organized in order to speed the Division advance and at 0635 the Second Battalion of the 222nd Infantry, motorized, drove ahead behind the armor for Munich. The First Battalion followed the Second and the Third Battalion moved through the regimental zone and cleaned up by-passed enemy resistance. The 242nd Infantry adopted a similar formation with the Third Battalion motorized, the First Battalion following it and the Second



Mad with joy, these inmates cheered, hugged and kissed men of the 222d Infantry who freed them. Note home-made Allied flags.

Battalion cleaning up the area. The 232nd Infantry advanced behind CCA of the 20th Armored and then went into an assembly area as XV Corps reserve.

At 1300 the Second Battalion of the 222nd Infantry reached Dachau, but preceding it into the camp was a small group of 222nd officers and men lead by Brigadier General Linden. As this party entered the camp General Linden was met by a representative of the Geneva Red Cross who turned the camp over to him. A young German lieutenant who had been brought to the camp from the Eastern Front only two days before them formally surrendered it to the General.

Now came the men of the Second Battalion to move in and wipe out SS guards who had refused to surrender and who were directing sniper fire at the advancing Americans.

Close behind them came men of the 45th Division who attacked the camp from the east.

As the first American entered the prison the 33,000 inmates went wild with joy and at the same time joined in the battle against the SS, some of whom had changed into prisoners striped uniform in an attempt to escape.

The first hysterical group to see the Americans rushed and were pushed into an electrified fence which surrounded the principal enclosure and several of them were killed. As the Americans entered the enclosure they rushed to them and tried to throw their arms around them. They grabbed at the soldiers, tried to get them to sign autographs and shouted words of welcome in every language in Europe.

Others rushed out of the enclosure and with clubs and stones set out to hunt down the men who had starved and tortured them for years. Some SS men were beaten to death, some were thrown in the moat which surrounded the camp and shot with their own weapons. Life to these men who had seen so many people die meant nothing. They wanted to kill every SS guard, every man who had participated in the murders of their families and friends.

Finally to halt the violence and in an attempt to restore order the Rainbowmen were forced to fire over the heads of the crowd. They quieted slightly then and the men of the Second Battalion began moving through the camp. Everywhere they saw sights which filled them with horror.

Drawn up on sidings outside the camp itself they found 50 boxcars, each one filled with about 30 men who had either starved to death in these cars or had been killed by the machine guns of the guards when they tried to escape. Many of the bodies were naked, the men who survived the longest having stripped them in an effort to keep warm. The 1,500 men in these cars had been shipped without food from the concentration camp at Buchenwald to Dachau. When they arrived there was no room for them in the prison, the SS guards were struck with terror at the approach of the Americans and so they were forced to remain in the cars until they died. Only one man was found alive.

In the camp itself there were bodies everywhere. The majority of the guards had fled the night before the Rainbowmen arrived, but before they left they had roamed through the camp killing important prisoners or persons, against whom they bore a grudge. If a man got in the way he was shot. If he walked across a street in front of a guard he was killed. Then the guards decided that this method was too slow and they turned their machine guns on the inmates. Before they stopped and fled they had killed more than 2,000 in an orgy of murder.

Inmates of the camp had gathered these bodies into piles, stacking them up like cordwood.

Until just a few days before the Americans arrived the Nazis had been busily engaged in their occupation of systematic murder. Prisoners who could no longer work, who had committed some minor infraction of a camp regulation or who did nothing other than fail to satisfy some whim of a guard were stripped of their clothing and herded into the gas chambers to die. Their bodies were then tossed into an adjoining room to await cremation. Thousands of men, women and children died this way in Dachau. Sometimes as many as 200 were killed in a single day and the camp had been established since 1933.

Toward the end, however, the Nazis had run out of coal and had no way to cremate the bodies, but still the business of murder by gas continued and hundreds of others died of starvation. These bodies the Rainbowmen found dumped into open graves or thrown into the moat until they dammed the water.

The stench of the camp was nauseating and in the huts in which the inmates lived the odor was overpowering. Beaten, tortured and starved by the guards, some of these people had become little more than animals.

In the hospital the odor was the same. This was not a place where patients were taken for cure, but a building where they went to die. Some were lying on bare board "beds" while others were on the floor. As the first group of officers and men walked through the building and down the aisles some of them struggled to sit up or wave a hand and a few who knew English muttered, "Oh, thank you, God, thank you!" Many of these people never lived to



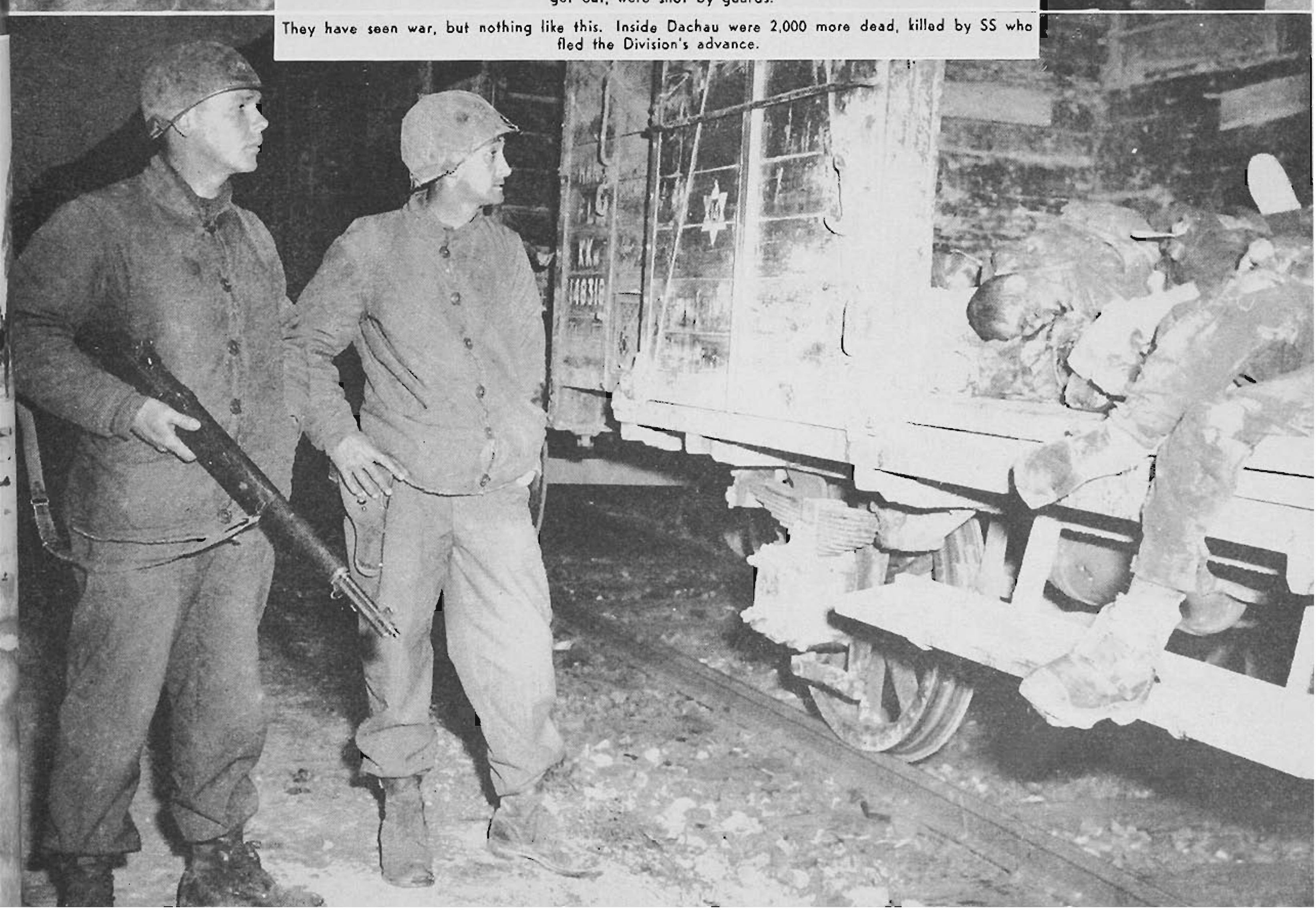
For them the Rainbow came too late. Shipped from Buchenwald to Dachau in box cars without food, they starved to death.

Each of these box cars is loaded with bodies, 1,500 in all, on a siding outside the camp. Cold speeded many of the deaths.





These men were still alive when the prison train arrived at Dachau. They opened a door, tried to get out, were shot by guards.



They have seen war, but nothing like this. Inside Dachau were 2,000 more dead, killed by SS who fled the Division's advance.

SALVATION! Surrounded by dead, one man in a box car is alive. His feeble cries were heard by Lt. Col. Donald E. Downard and a tank destroyer captain who climbed over bodies to reach him. He is a Pole. More clothes, better physical condition saved him.







Wrapped in a GI blanket the lone survivor is carried to a jeep, rushed to medical aid. In the confusion no one learned his name.

enjoy their freedom, however, for even as the Americans moved through the hospital and camp many of the inmates died. Liberation had come too late for them.

Only a few hours after the camp was liberated doctors and nurses moved into the camp to attempt to nurse the prisoners back to health. Food was rushed to the inmates and the work of burying the dead began.

Dachau was a nightmare to all the men of the Division who saw it—and men from each organization were later taken on a tour of the camp—but it was also a lesson.

"Now I know why we are fighting," man after man said. "The Nazis who conceived such a place as that were madmen and those people who operated it were insane. We cannot live in the same world with them. They are beasts and must be destroyed."

Even while Dachau was being liberated the Rainbow continued to advance. After clearing Dachau of enemy resistance the Second Battalion of the 222nd Infantry pushed forward and Company E crossed the Amper River and at nightfall entered the outskirts of the city of Munich and thus became the first American unit to enter the capital of Bavaria.

The 242nd Infantry, racing down the autobahn, also advanced to the Amper River, moving 30 miles during the day.

Now the Rainbow was up with the 20th Armored Division and the advance was being built across the Amper for the armor to continue its advance. Infantrymen and jeeps could cross the narrow river without difficulty and General Collins requested that the Corps Commander order the armored unit to halt and get off the roads and let the Rainbow pass through.

This permission was given and on the morning of April 30 the 222nd and 242nd Infantry Regiments passed the 20th Armored Division and entered Munich. Although on the east of the city the 45th Division was meeting scattered opposition the enemy offered no resistance to the Rainbow. The 3rd Division on the right likewise met no opposition and entered the city.

Which division first entered the city in force is difficult to determine. All entries were made almost



Top: Killed by gas, these bodies are piled in a "storage room" awaiting cremation, but furnaces were shut down for lack of coal.

simultaneously, but it was the Rainbow which captured the center of the city, including such famous places as the Rathaus, the beer cellar where Hitler organized the Nazi party and the Koenig Platz in which the party held its huge annual rallies.

Munich was a wild city when the first Rainbow men entered it. A manufacturing center, more than a quarter of its population of 800,000 were slave laborers who greeted the Americans as liberators and saw an opportunity to revenge themselves on some of the Nazis who had profited by their work.

These workers, plus a number of Allied prisoners of war, had headed for the wine cellars and the food warehouses as soon as it became apparent that the German army was not going to fight in the city. Germans joined them in their looting and soon it appeared that half the people in the city were trying to loot wine or food from some cellar or warehouse.

Roaming through the streets and sometimes marching in formation were groups of German soldiers seeking a place where they could surrender. Citizens were busy hanging white flags from their windows. Although the uprising in the city two

Bottom: A few victims were buried in wooden coffins. Most were put in common graves.

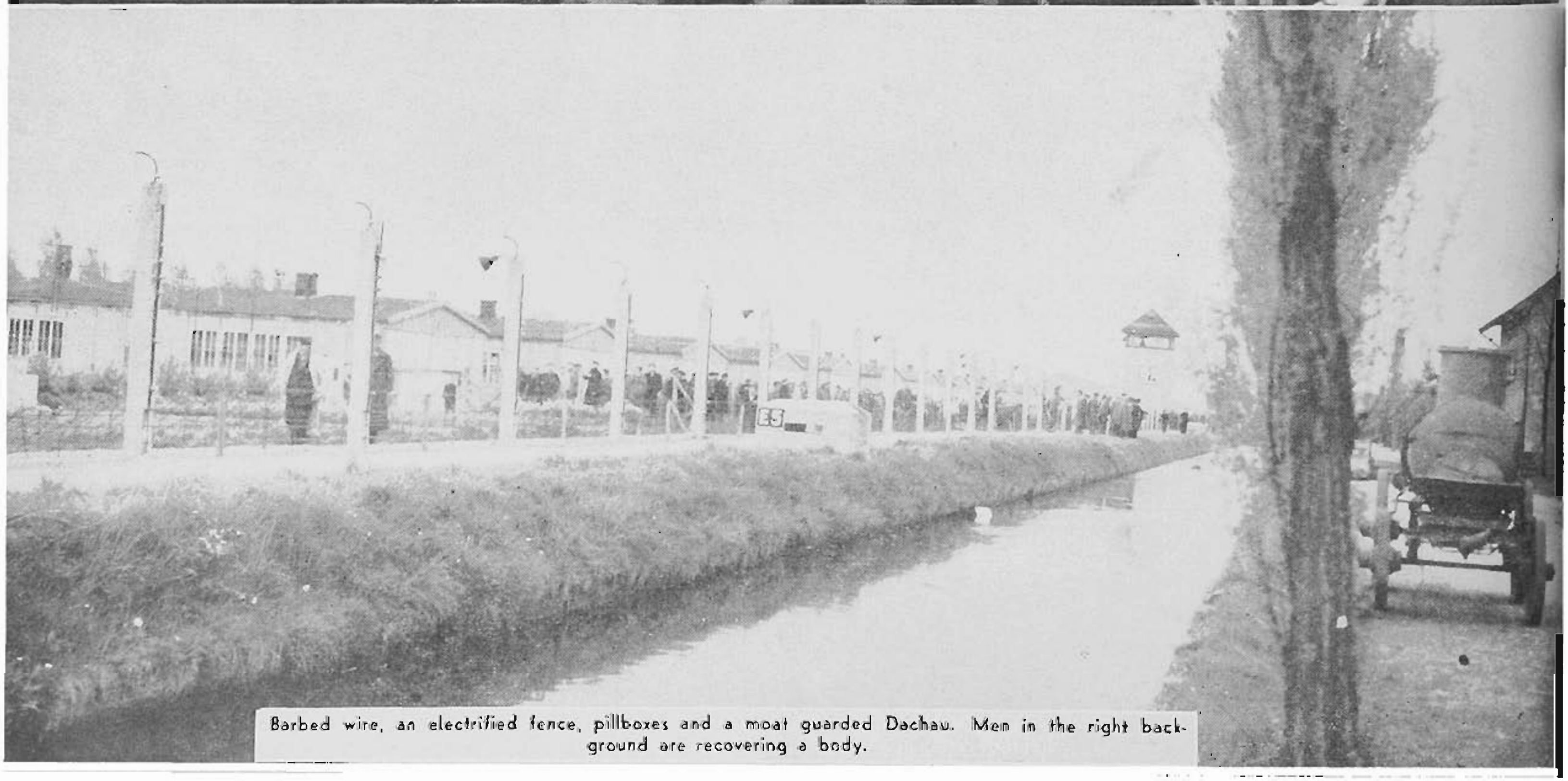


days before had failed, there had been little law and order in Munich since and the army had failed even to blow the bridges across the Isar River. The general feeling now was that the war was over and the people of Munich were celebrating it.

The city itself was battered by bombs and the streets were choked with rubble. The railroad yards were almost completely destroyed and the station was only a skeleton of twisted steel. American prisoners of war who were working on repairing the


A war correspondent examines the crematory's furnaces


Every soldier was a hero to the liberated inmates who eagerly seek names and addresses of the men who freed them from suffering.


Barbed wire, an electrified fence, pillboxes and a moat guarded Dachau. Men in the right background are recovering a body.

tracks had been forced to remain in box cars in the yards during the bombings.

The first job of the Rainbowmen as they moved through the city was to restore some semblance of order. Men were sent to drive the looters from the food warehouses and establish guard on them. Others began rounding up prisoners and Rainbow military police took charge of the traffic now pouring into the city.

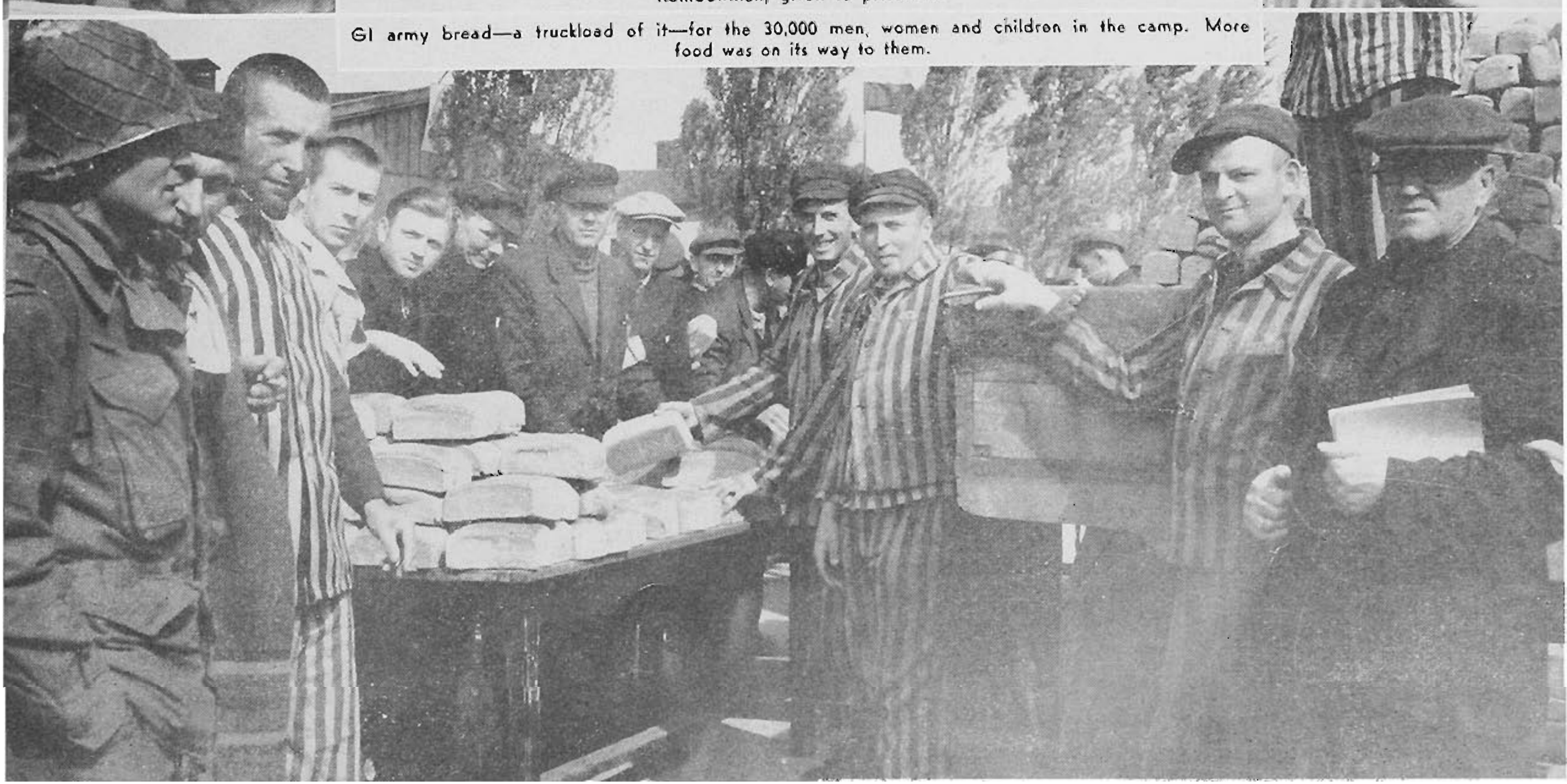
With this accomplished, the infantrymen pushed ahead and continued the drive to the east and the



A French newspaper artist sketches a pile of bodies



The first real food they have seen for months, or maybe years. It was taken from SS stores by Rainbowmen, given to prisoners.



GI army bread—a truckload of it—for the 30,000 men, women and children in the camp. More food was on its way to them.



Death is commonplace for these miserable people. Only food is important. They are still puzzled by their liberation, hardly seem able to realize what it means. With the dead all around them they cook their first meal of American-sent food.

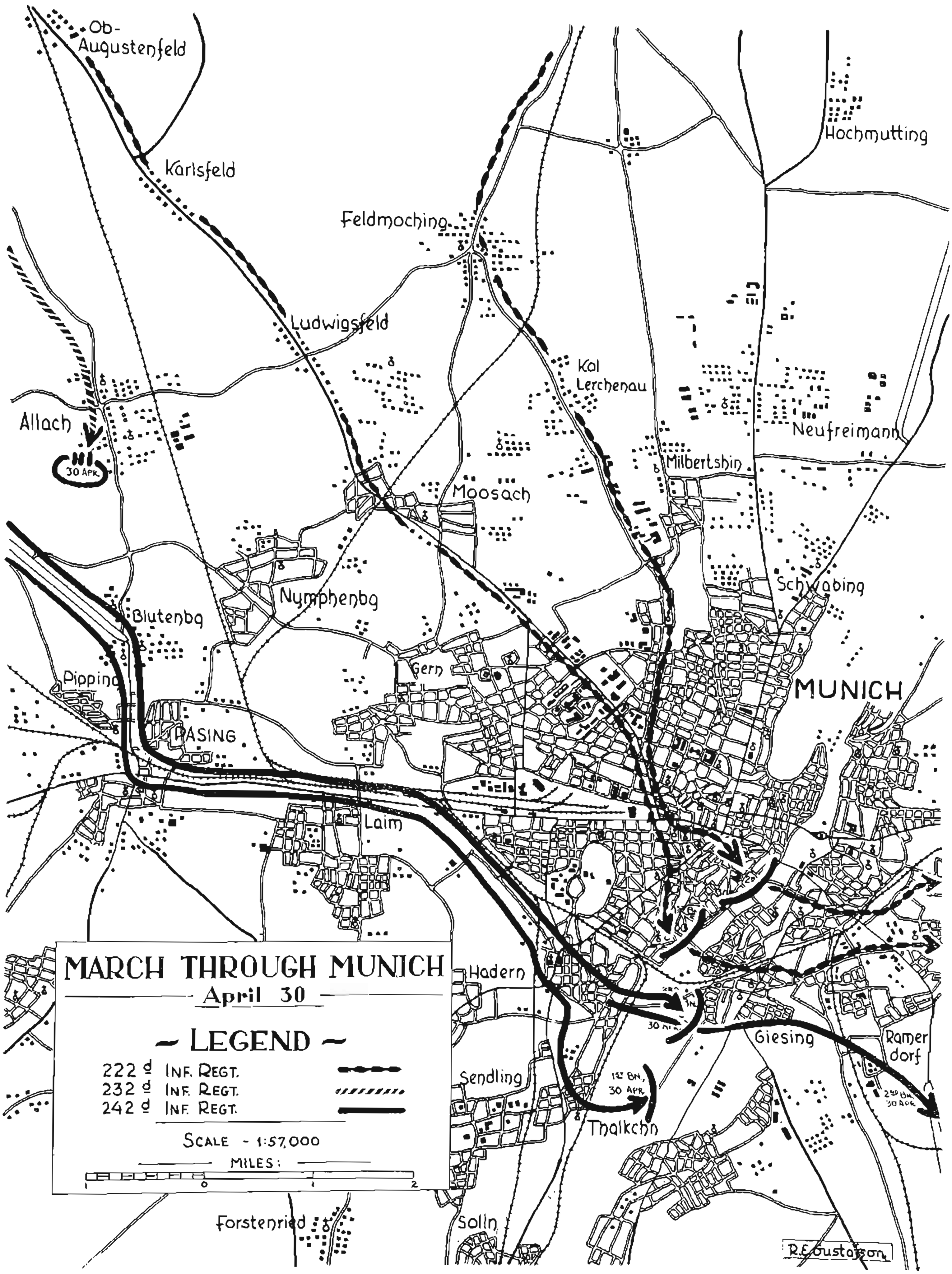




Once Munich was reached, entry into the city met almost no resistance. Thousands of Allied PWs and slave laborers cheered troops and German soldiers were ready to quit. Here tank destroyers loaded with infantry roar into the city while prisoners march out.



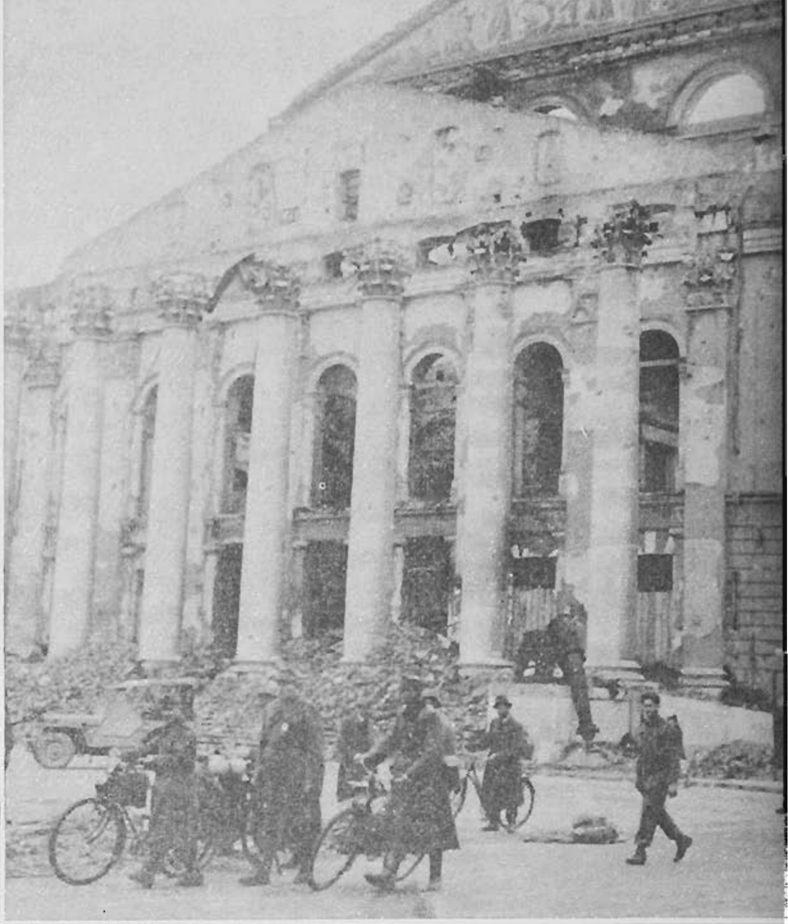
Germans, intent on looting, paid little attention to the invading troops, completely ignore the tankers displaying the Nazi flag.



MARCH THROUGH MUNICH
April 30
~ LEGEND ~
222d INF. REGT.
232d INF. REGT.
242d INF. REGT.
SCALE - 1:57,000
MILES:
1 0 1 2
Ob-Augustenfeld
Karlsfeld
Feldmoching
Hochmutting
Ludwigsfeld
Kol Lerchenau
Allach
30 APR.
Neufreimann
Milbertshin
Moosach
Schwabing
Blutenbg
Nymphenbg
Pipping
Gern
MUNICH
PASING
Laim
Hadern
Giesing
Ramer dorf
Sendling
1st BN. 30 APR.
2nd BN. 30 APR.
Thalkchn
Forstenried
Solln
R.E. Gustafson

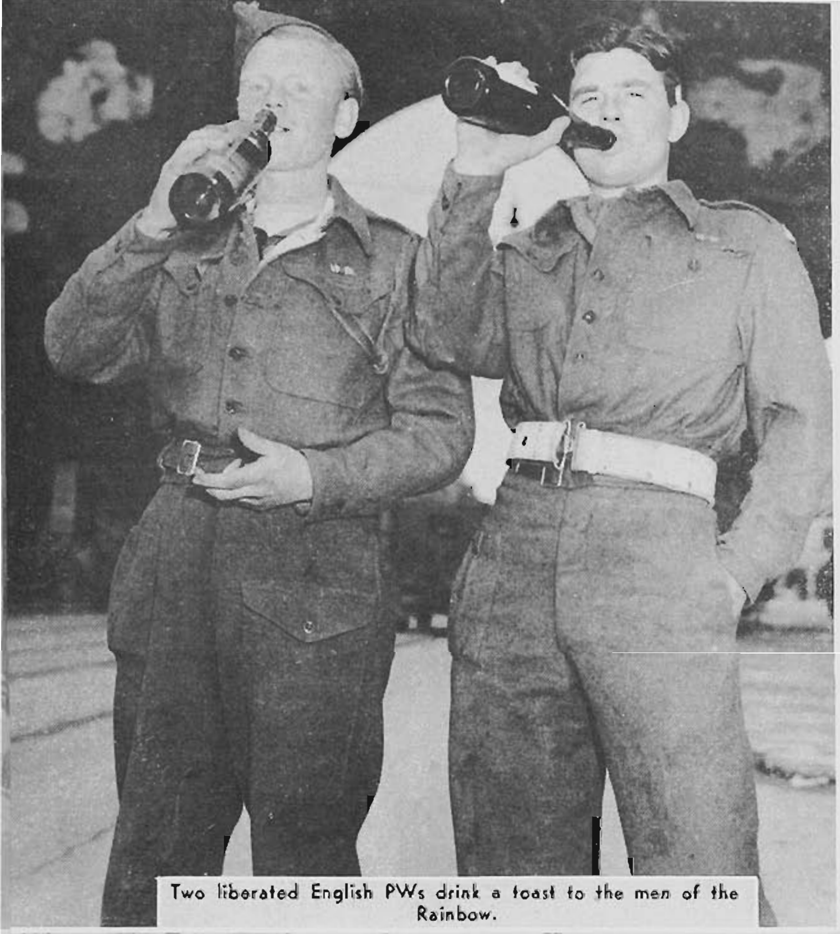
border of Austria. Behind them the other units of the Division entered Munich and some men grabbed an opportunity to get a couple of bottles of wine from the famous Kaiserstuben Hotel cellars or see the sights in this city in which the Nazi party was born.

Every man with a few minutes to spare headed for the famed beer cellar where Hitler began his beer hall putsch which ended with his arrest and the slaying of 13 of his followers. They were surprised to find it an unpretentious building, large, but completely bare. The owner of the cellar explained that the original building had been destroyed in a bomb attempt on Hitler's life, but had been completely rebuilt so as to duplicate the orig-





Military traffic soon crowded Munich's streets. The jeep, the captured car and the German army truck are from the 222d Infantry.



Two liberated English PWs drink a toast to the men of the Rainbow.

inal building. Because of the war and a shortage of materials it had never been quite furnished, however, although he had had hopes of opening for business in about six months.

Behind the cafe was the huge hall where Hitler held his meetings with the original party members. The hall was now filthy, piled with party records and long unused. There was a bomb hole in the ceiling, but the bomb which made it failed to explode. It was the only bomb to hit the buildings, which otherwise were undamaged.

At the Koenigs Platz, where the annual ceremonies were held honoring the original Nazis and those killed in the putsch, soldiers found the parade ground littered with rubble and a narrow gauge rail-



Thousands of prisoners march through Munich's streets over the same route Hitler led his henchmen in the beer hall putsch.



The fall of Munich meant the end of the war to the majority of the bewildered Wehrmacht. These men made no attempt to fight.

Traffic jam in a conquered city with soldiers and civilians waiting for prisoners to pass in order to get across the main street.





Adolf Hitler, I am Here! The men of Company G, 222d Infantry, were the first into Hitler's swank home near the Koenig Platz.

GI boots on Der Feuhrer's table. Although Hitler had not been there for two years, the house was all in order when Rainbowmen entered.







The famed Kaiserstuben Hotel is a center of activity as slave laborers, liberated PWs, soldiers and civilians help themselves to huge stores of wine. Many freed American prisoners of war gave the wine to soldiers who could not stop in town.



This Dachau inmate has four bottles of champagne from the Hotel Deutscherkaiser. Civilians line up to loot.

Meanwhile, in the center of the city Germans were again marching over the same route on which Hitler had lead his followers in his beer hall putsch. This time they were German prisoners of war, marching with their hands on their heads past the beer hall and the Rathaous and through the town to a PW enclosure on the northern outskirts of the city. More than 3,000 men and a few women, members of the German army, marched in this column. They were a dejected, beaten lot who wanted no more of war and their attitude seemed to reflect that of the entire German forces in the south. Gone now was the dream of a Redoubt. The Americans had advanced so swiftly it was impossible to make an orderly retreat into the Alps. As far as the ordinary German soldier was concerned the war was over with the fall of Munich.

Nevertheless, the Rainbow continued to push ahead. Just before leaving Munich the Second Battalion of the 242nd Infantry uncovered a large airport, about 8 miles southeast of the city. There 1,000 men and 500 women soldiers surrendered and 100 planes and three antiaircraft batteries were captured. The next day the Division advanced 18 miles beyond the city.

road running through it. The railroad replaced street cars in the city when the electric power plant was destroyed. On one side of the Platz were the shrines erected to the men killed in the first party demonstration. They were undamaged, but just behind, Hitler's Braun Haus, an early party headquarters, was completely destroyed by a direct bomb hit. In a few months men of the Rainbow Division were to parade in this platz before Germans who once had watched the SS march there. The occasion was the return of a drum, recovered by the Seventh Army, to the Fifth Battalion Gordon Highlanders who had lost it at Dunkirk.

Although its windows were shattered and its walls were bomb-scarred, the Rainbowmen found the famous Munich Rathaus virtually undamaged. Military government officers moved into the building and took over from the burgomeister who surrendered the city.



Hungry Munich residents fight for German army rations stolen from a warehouse. A few made off with cases.

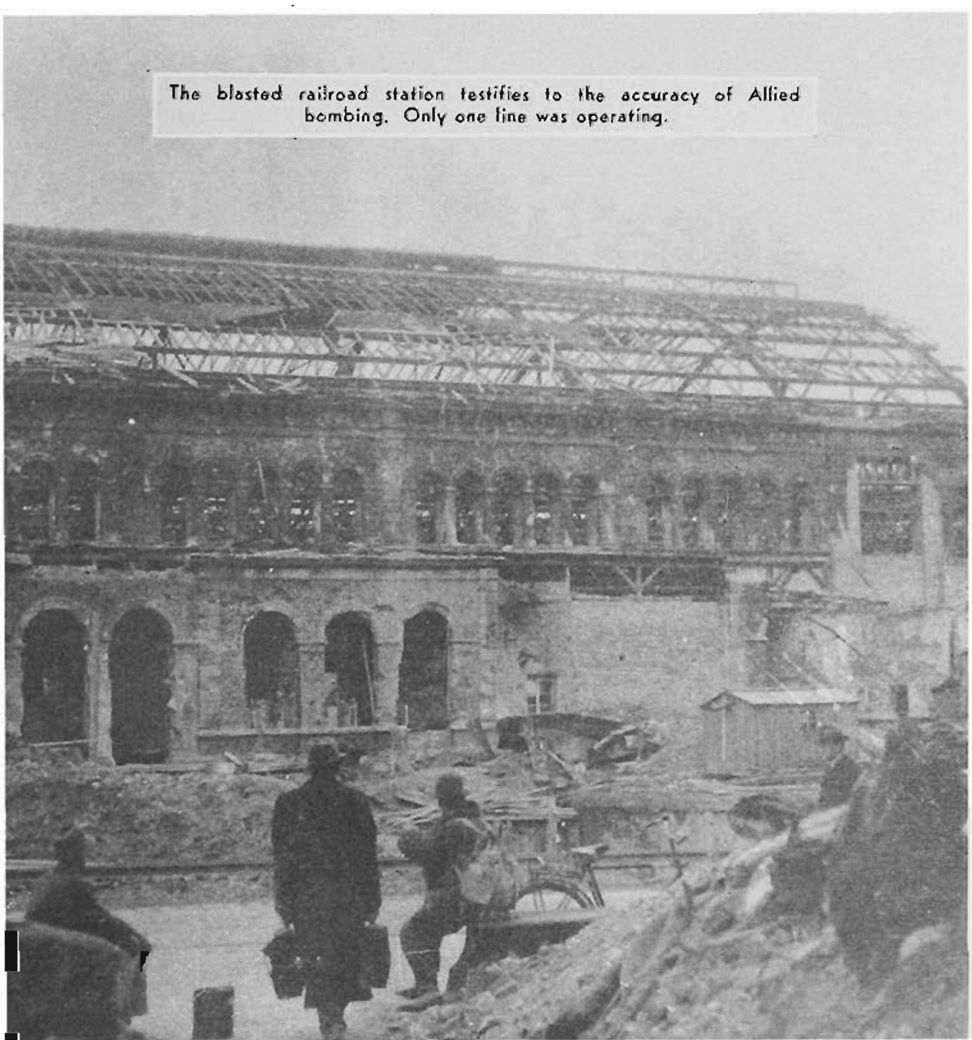
Now the 42nd Reconnaissance Troop was moved out ahead of the regiments and directed to reconnoiter to the Inn River and the infantry followed close behind.

Surrendering Germans began to line the roads and instead of gathering them together the leading elements of the Division merely directed them to the narest assembly point, where they were collected. Entire German companies were found assembled in towns taverns celebrating the end of the war, although no armistice or peace had been signed. Company officers were discovered signing discharges for the men of their command and telling them to go home or to go and surrender to the Americans. Entire German companies drove in their vehicles to surrender points and generals and staff officers arrived in their cars.

A car driven by a German private and with two colonels as passengers was proceeding along the road when it blew a rear tire. The driver got out and surveyed the flat with disgust. A colonel leaned out the window and shouted at him to fix it. Slowly the driver returned to the car, gathered up his pack out of the front seat and walked away. He was through taking orders.



A cheese factory attracts civilian looters. Two soldiers later blocked the entrance, ordered everyone away.



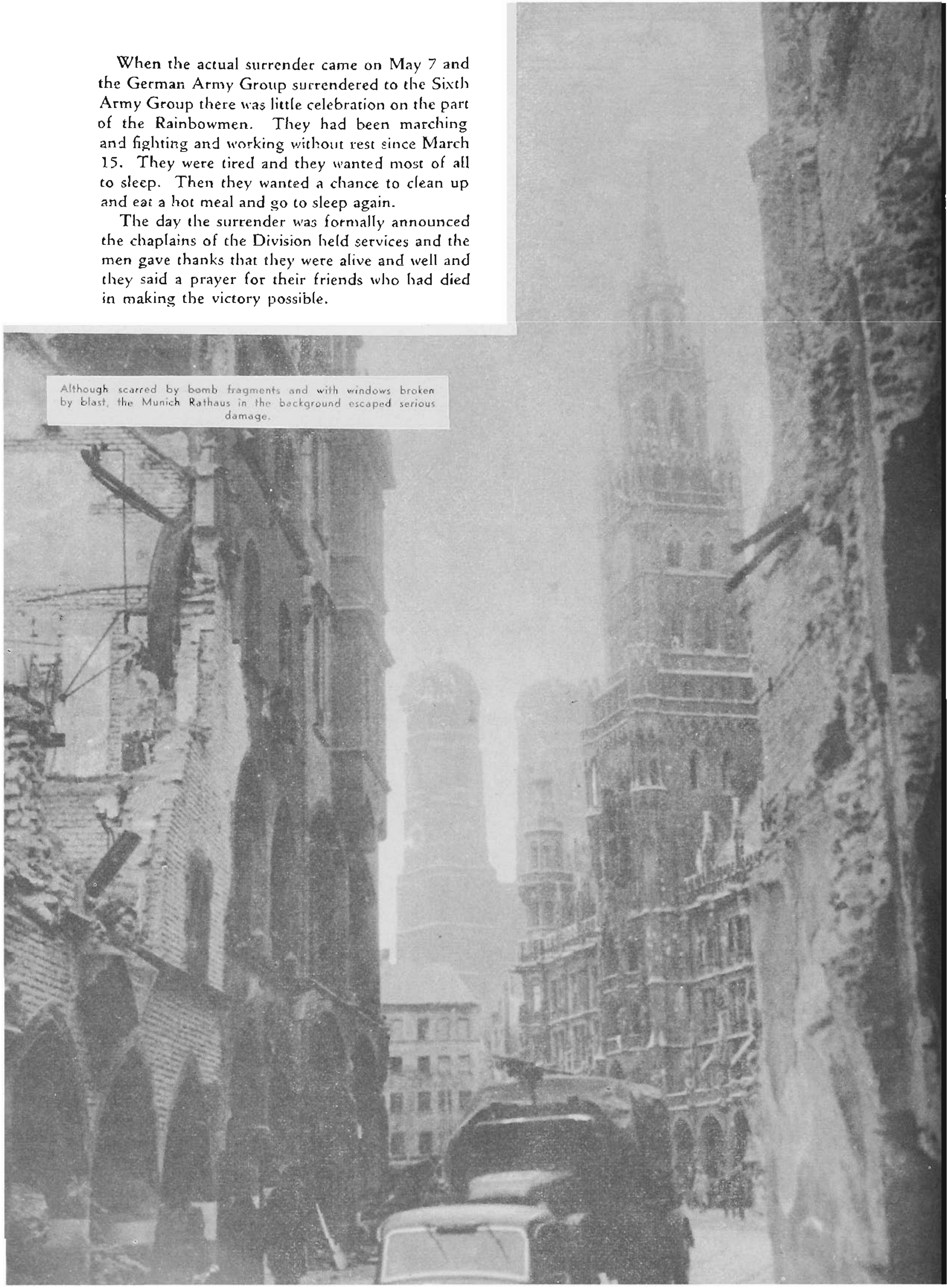
The blasted railroad station testifies to the accuracy of Allied bombing. Only one line was operating.

The German army was breaking up and the human debris it scattered on the roads and throughout the towns slowed the Division's advance about as much as if they had been putting up a resistance.

On May 3 the Rainbow crossed the Inn River and then moved ahead toward the Austrian border. The formation, used since leaving Munich, was with the 222nd and 242nd Regiments abreast and the 232nd Infantry in reserve. There was no resistance now, but only the tremendous job of rounding up prisoners and evacuating them to the rear. Shortly after noon on May 4 the leading elements of the Rainbow reached the Austrian border north of Salzburg and patrols crossed it. Orders were then received for the Division to move into assembly areas along the border. The end of the war was now only a few hours away.

When the actual surrender came on May 7 and the German Army Group surrendered to the Sixth Army Group there was little celebration on the part of the Rainbowmen. They had been marching and fighting and working without rest since March 15. They were tired and they wanted most of all to sleep. Then they wanted a chance to clean up and eat a hot meal and go to sleep again.

The day the surrender was formally announced the chaplains of the Division held services and the men gave thanks that they were alive and well and they said a prayer for their friends who had died in making the victory possible.



Although scarred by bomb fragments and with windows broken by blast, the Munich Rathaus in the background escaped serious damage.



A typical Munich street, choked with rubble, lined with a few walls of gutted buildings. Blasted tracks stopped all street cars.



The ruined Bayerischer Hotel where Hitler met Prime Minister Chamberlain in 1938 and pledged he had no plans for world conquest.



The National Colors and the flags of every state in the union fly in Munich's Koenig Platz, Hitler's SS parade grounds.



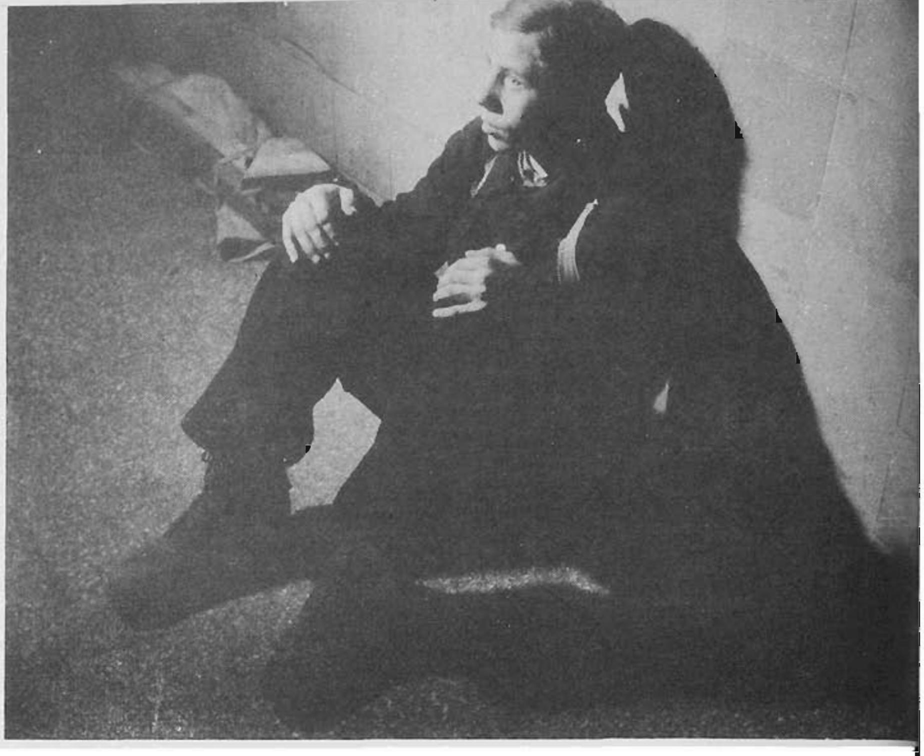
Rainbowmen with the State flags march into the Koenig Platz. The temple-like structures in the center background were shrines to Nazis killed in the beer hall putsch. The large buildings at the right and left were party headquarters. Behind the temple at the right was the Braun Haus.



Parade-loving Germans waited six hours to see this ceremony in which the Seventh Army returned a drum to a Scotch Highlander Battalion.

"It just doesn't seem like there is anything to celebrate," said an infantryman. "I'm glad it's over and that we will get a chance to rest, but we still have to go to the Pacific—and it is going to be just as tough over there."

When the war in Europe ended the Rainbow had compiled an enviable record. It had completed 114 days of combat, during which time it had waged a heroic defense of Alsace and advanced 450 miles from the Hardt Mountains of France to the border of Austria. In its path it had captured the key German cities of Wurzburg, Schweinfurt, Furth and Munich. It had been the first unit in its corps to





Just as anxious to quit was General Von Falkenhorst, former German commander in Norway. "Hitler was a stupid fool," he declared. Staggering under the weight of four battered suitcases, the general walked into the Division Command Post at Palling.



enter Germany, the first to penetrate the Siegfried line, the first to reach and the first to cross the Danube and the first into Munich. It had captured 51,000 prisoners and always taken its objectives with a minimum number of casualties. It ended the war a first-class fighting team, fit to meet any enemy and destroy him.

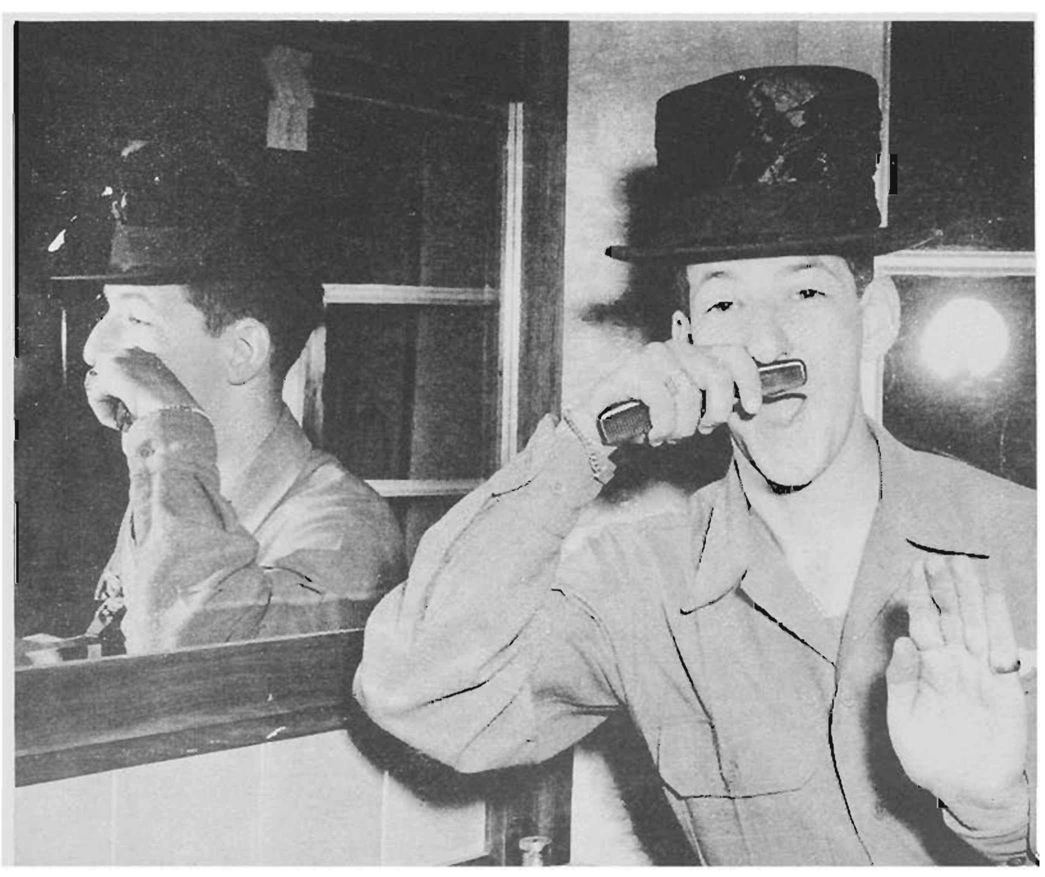
The Rainbow remained on the Austrian border in the vicinity of Palling until May 14 and during that time had an opportunity to rest, clean up and maintain equipment. It also established road blocks around its entire area and began the gigantic task of controlling the flow of displaced persons who thronged the roads, seeking to return to their homes.

On May 14 the Rainbow moved south into the picturesque Austrian Tyrol and was soon engaged in the dual function of collecting the thousands of German soldiers who had fled into this area for a final stand and training for redeployment.

In moving into the Tyrol the Division relieved units of the 36th Infantry Division and was itself relieved by the 20th Armored Division.

Now the Division settled down to comfortable living in one of the most famous vacation areas in the world. Houses, hotels and famous old castles were requisitioned and men had beds to sleep in and ate their meals in mess halls which were converted restaurants and taverns. The area was dotted with lakes and nearly every organization had a place not far away where the men could swim. Clubs were established and there were movies frequently. Organizations, battalions and regiments formed baseball teams and a Division team was organized. Units began forming track teams and there were field meets on the Tyrolean meadows with snow-covered mountains forming a background.

Camera fans now found plenty of material for pictures and they photographed the quaint towns and farmhouses and climbed the mountains or rode up in cable cars to get pictures of the snow in June. After months of fighting this seemed an easy, pleas-





PEACE! The war is over for the Seventh Army. German Army Group G has surrendered to General Jacob Devers and in this beautiful Bavarian church Catholic Rainbowmen celebrate Mass, give thanks that they have survived the battles and pray for dead comrades.





In a field near the Austrian border other men are addressed by General Collins in an interdenominational service of thanks.



With bowed heads these men pray for all Allied soldiers who died in bringing a final peace in war-shattered Europe.



State flags move into position in a ceremony held by the 242d Infantry Regiment immediately following the end of the war.



Battle-worn uniforms washed, if not pressed, men of the 242d participate in the awarding of decorations for gallantry and achievement.

ant life with everything strange and new and interesting.

Although there was opportunity to play, there was also plenty of work to be done. Into these mountains of the Tyrol had fled thousands of members of the German army. Into them had come the arch Nazis and the lesser cogs in Hitler's war machine, all hoping that here the SS would continue the fight. These were the people who would attempt to keep alive the Nazi party, and these were the people who must be captured.

The best way to do this was to stop all movement in the area and road blocks were established every few kilometers. Civilians were not allowed to travel outside their towns without a special pass and every military vehicle was checked. In the towns every person was questioned by men of the counter-Intelligence Corps, a process known as "screening." Every road and trail was patrolled and every mountain cabin or hotel which could possibly serve as a hideout was investigated again and again.

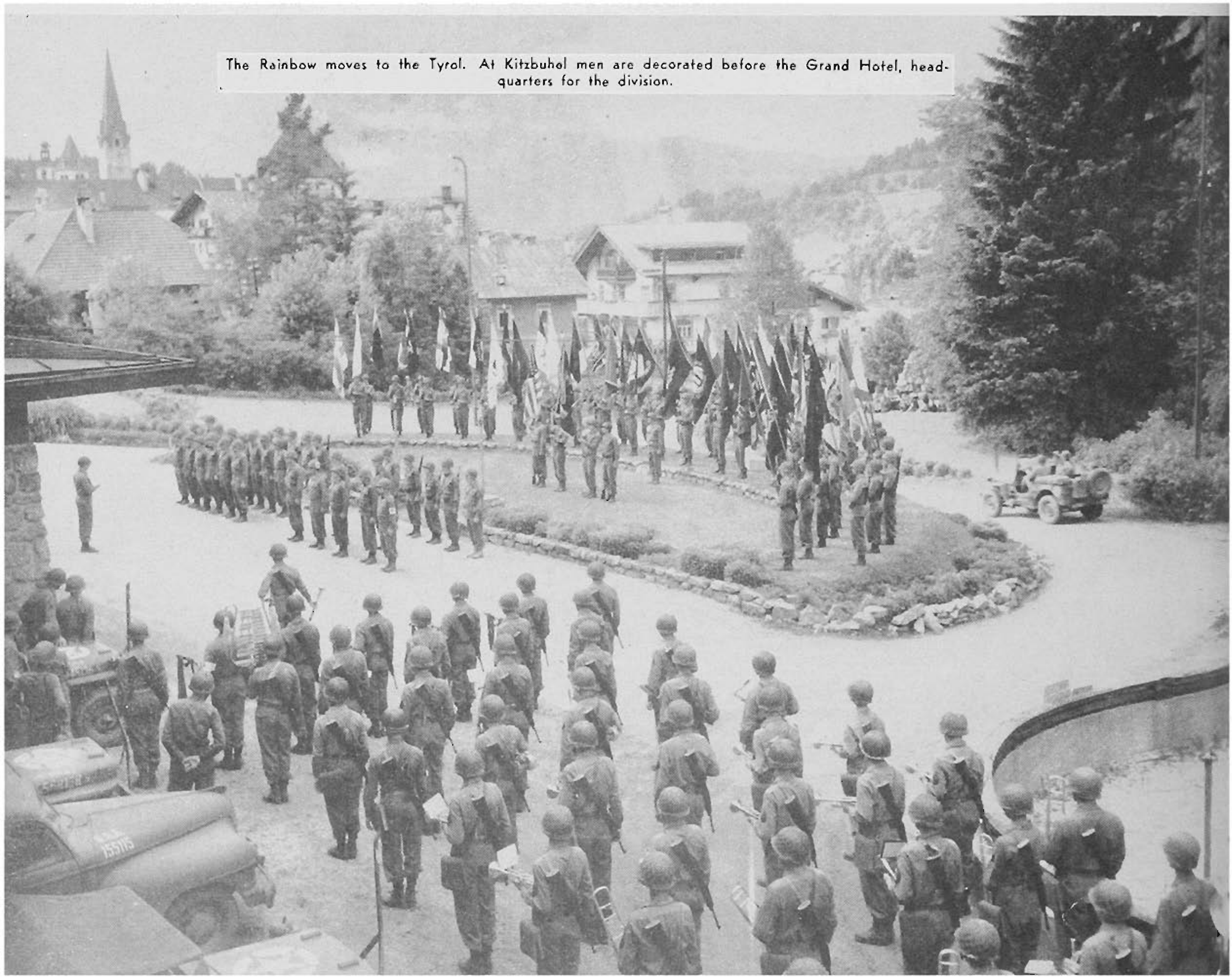
One patrol, for example, was investigating a ski lodge on a mountain peak when it noticed a similar lodge high on the next mountain, well above the snow line and very difficult to reach. It went down the mountain and after a four-hour climb reached the top of the other. There was the hotel and an old caretaker sitting outside.

"You're the fifth group of Americans to climb away up here just to look through this place," the old man declared.

"That's just fine," said the patrol leader, "and we want to look through it again."

It was on just such a patrol that SS General Von Oberg, the infamous "Butcher of Paris," was discovered posing as a Wehrmacht private. An SS Major was found hiding in another cabin and was killed by a Rainbowman when he pulled a pistol from his pocket.

German General Schoener, commander of all Nazi forces in Czechoslovakia, surrendered himself to the Division when he realized that he could not escape to Italy through the Rainbow road blocks. Schoener flew into the mountains and landed near the town of Mittersill just before the surrender. He hid in a cabin for two weeks and then one day



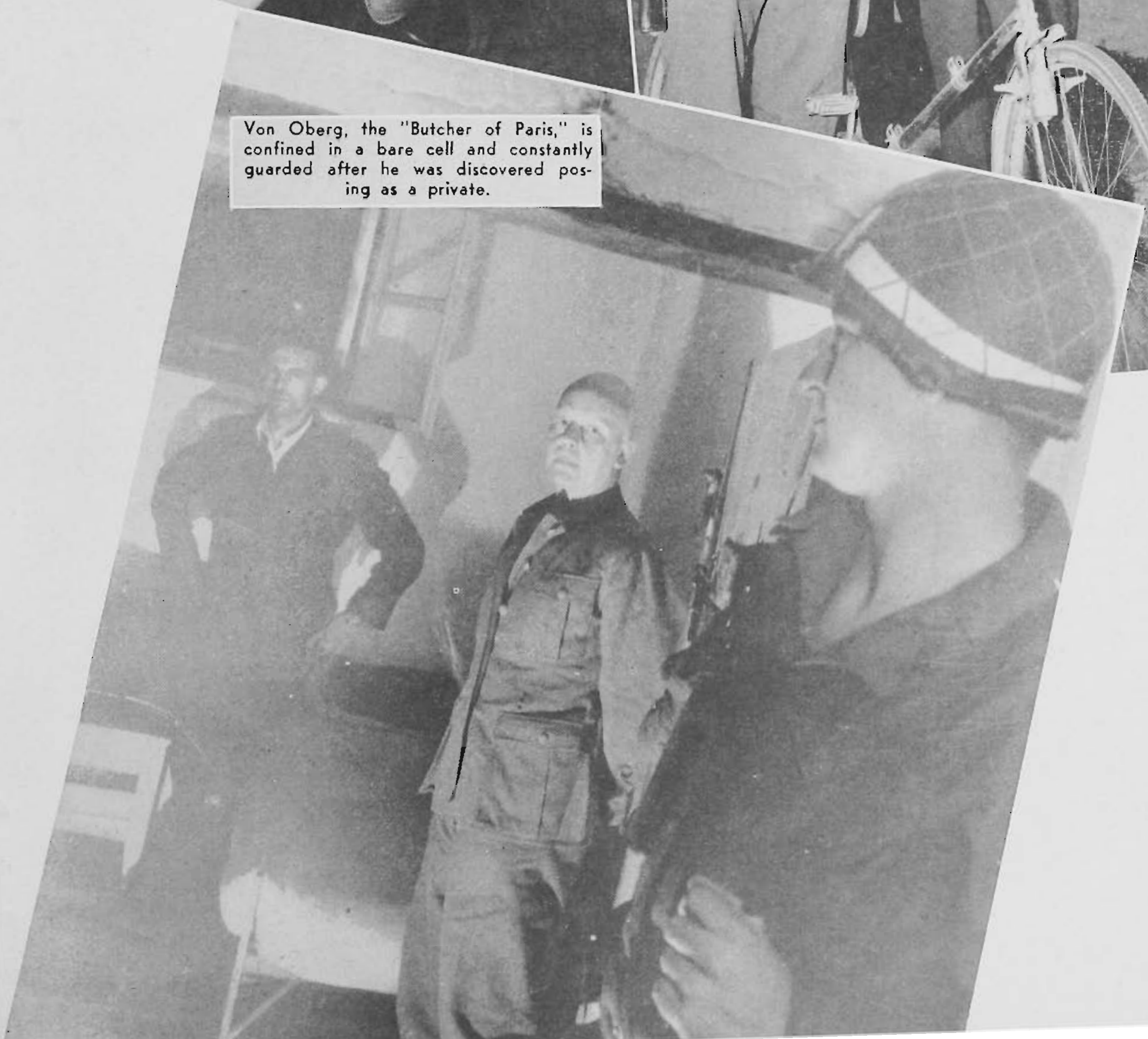
The Rainbow moves to the Tyrol. At Kitzbuhol men are decorated before the Grand Hotel, headquarters for the division.



Nazis and suspected Nazis are rounded up. Leni Riefenstahl, once Hitler's girl-friend denies everything. "I was never a Nazi," she declares.



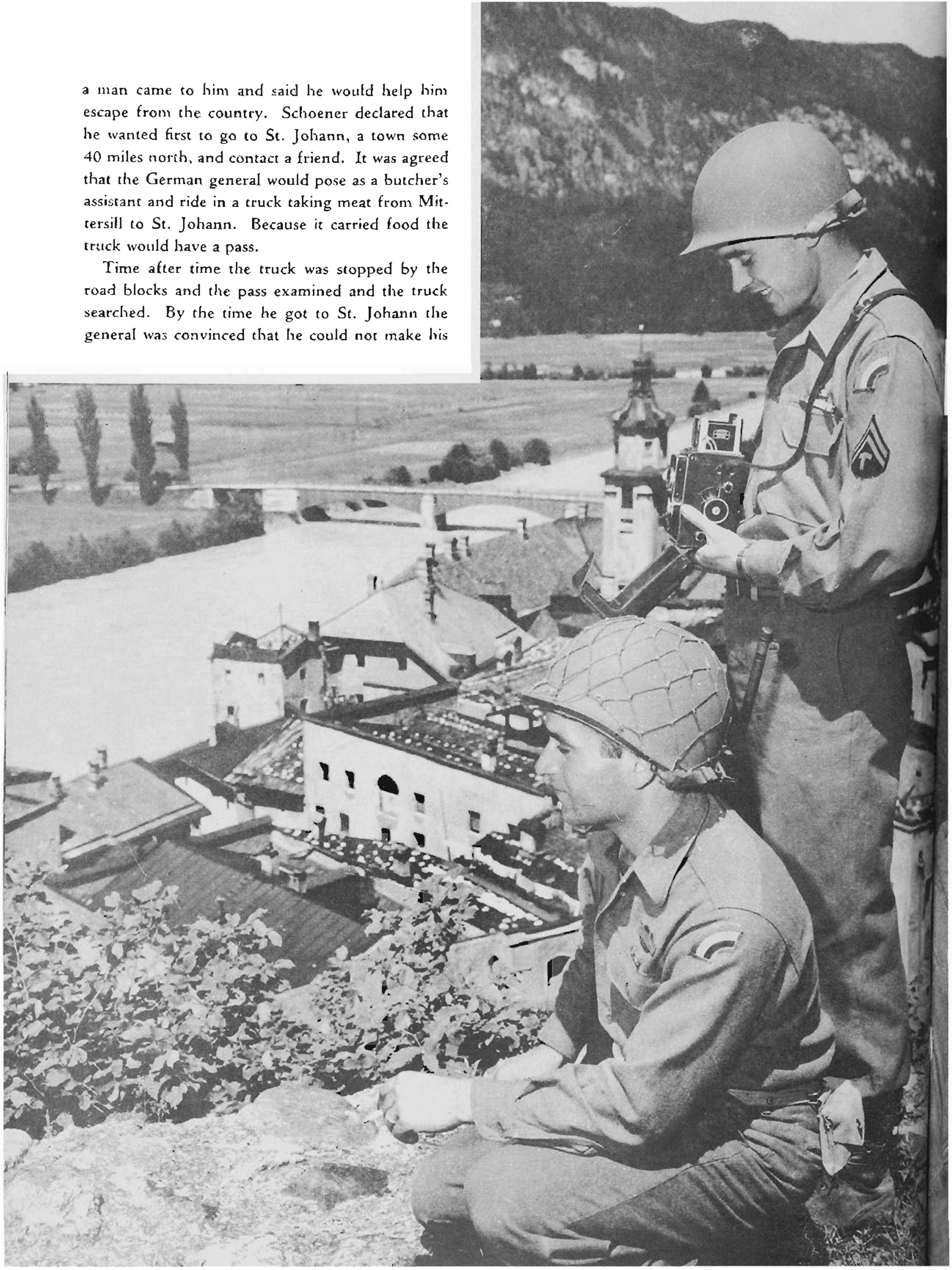
Road blocks, established every few miles, check passes. At first civilians were unable to travel. Later the rules were relaxed.



Von Oberg, the "Butcher of Paris," is confined in a bare cell and constantly guarded after he was discovered posing as a private.

a man came to him and said he would help him escape from the country. Schoener declared that he wanted first to go to St. Johann, a town some 40 miles north, and contact a friend. It was agreed that the German general would pose as a butcher's assistant and ride in a truck taking meat from Mittersill to St. Johann. Because it carried food the truck would have a pass.

Time after time the truck was stopped by the road blocks and the pass examined and the truck searched. By the time he got to St. Johann the general was convinced that he could not make his



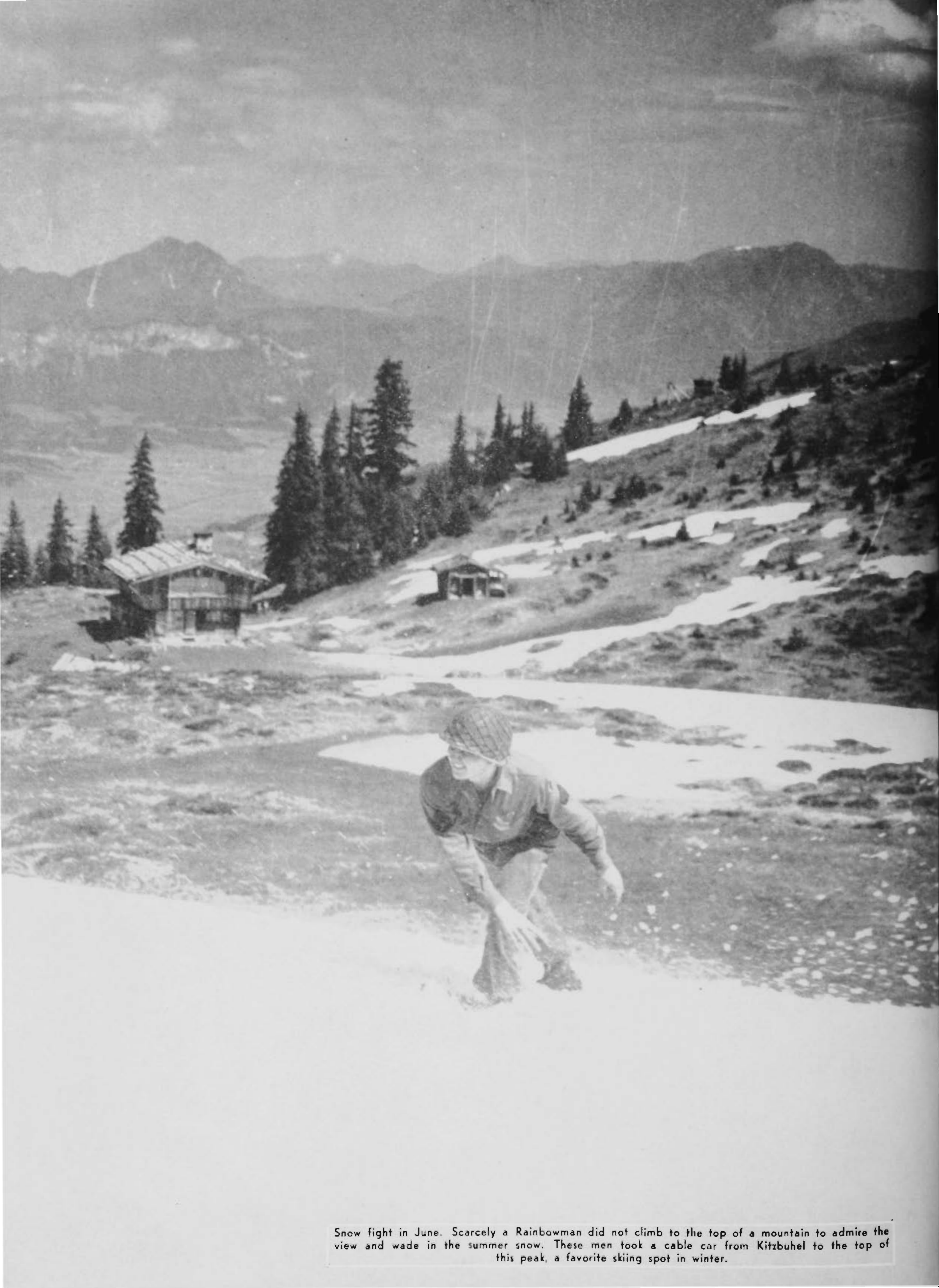


way through the Tyrol and he surrendered himself in the city. Never did he discover that the man who had volunteered to help him flee the country and who had driven the food truck was an American agent who hoped the General would lead him to other Nazis. The man he was going to see in St. Johann, however, had already been arrested.

"I never expected the American army to be so efficient," Schoener declared later. "It is impossible for anyone to move through the area."

In the meantime, the Germans themselves were





Snow fight in June. Scarcely a Rainbowman did not climb to the top of a mountain to admire the view and wade in the summer snow. These men took a cable car from Kitzbuhel to the top of this peak, a favorite skiing spot in winter.





In every town and on every road there were Rainbow signs. In this shop hundreds of them were produced—each with a Rainbow.



Quartermaster trucks, driven day and night over extended supply lines, are checked and repaired. Not a truck was lost in combat.



Tyrolean children form their own drum and bugle corps with pots and pans and parade before the musicians of the 222d Infantry Regiment.



The Rathaus of Kitzbuhel is built over a main road to Innsbruck. The building at the right with the Rainbow is the theater.



Only brave men will get close to such an Austrian farm wagon.



Fraternization with young children is legalized



Castles are favorite CPs and each has its armor

helping in the rounding up of all German soldiers in the area. This work was under the direction of the Headquarters of the First German Army, which was in the area at the time of the surrender, and the German army maintained liaison with the Division headquarters in Kitzbuhel.

Under the guidance of the German staff officers the soldiers were organized into companies, German officers were placed in charge and convoys were organized with the Germans using their own vehicles. These remnants of the Wehrmacht were then moved to huge camps in Germany immediately north of the Austrian border.

Several times while the Rainbow was occupying the Tyrol its occupational boundaries were changed. When the Division first moved into the area it occupied both the eastern portion of the Tyrol and portions of Landkreise Rosenheim, Aibing and Miesbach immediately north of it in Germany. On May 19 the area was extended to include all of these three German areas and also the adjoining Landreis Ebersburg. It was into this area of Ebersburg and Aibling that 200,000 surrendered German troops were being moved and the task of guarding them was assigned to the 232nd Infantry. On May 24, however, other troops took over in these areas and the 232nd was relieved. On June 12 the Division was relieved of all the area which it occupied in Germany in a move designed to reconcile unit boundaries with political boundaries to simplify military government problems. At the same time and for the same reason, portions of Landkreise Kufstein, Kitzbuhel and Schwaz not previously occupied by the Rainbow were taken over from the 101st Airborne Division and the 103rd Infantry Division. This left the Division occupying the three eastern Landkreise of the Austrian Tyrol. The 103rd Infantry Division occupied the western section of the Tyrol and the 101st Airborn Division occupied Land Salzburg to the east. These borders remained unchanged for the remainder of the time the Rainbow occupied the Tyrol.

On May 23 a training program designed to prepare the Division for its expected redeployment to the Pacific was inaugurated. Emphasis was placed on Japanese tactics, range firing, physical conditioning, and the information and education pro-

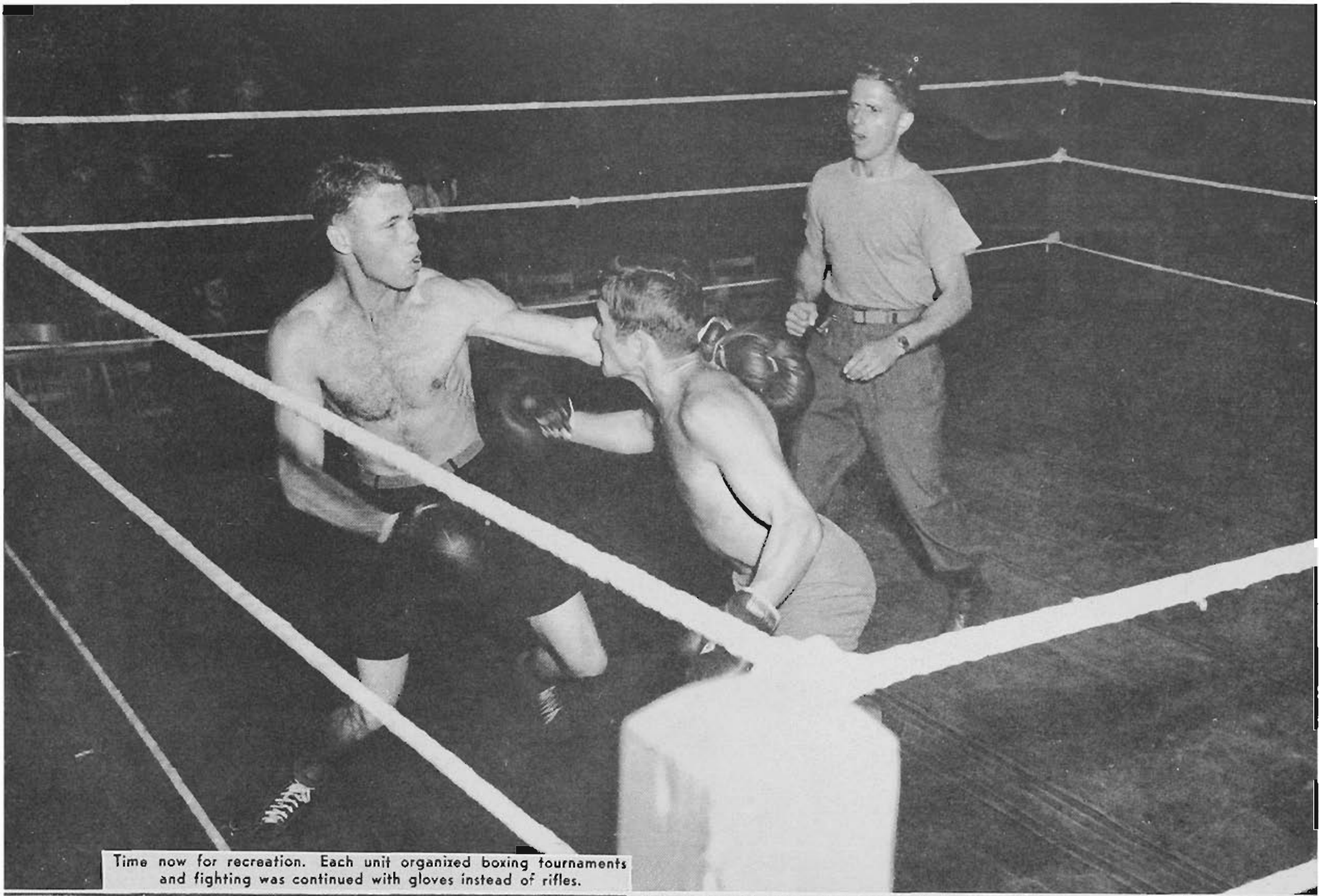




With more time for reading, many men take advantage of libraries made available by special service and the I. and E. program.

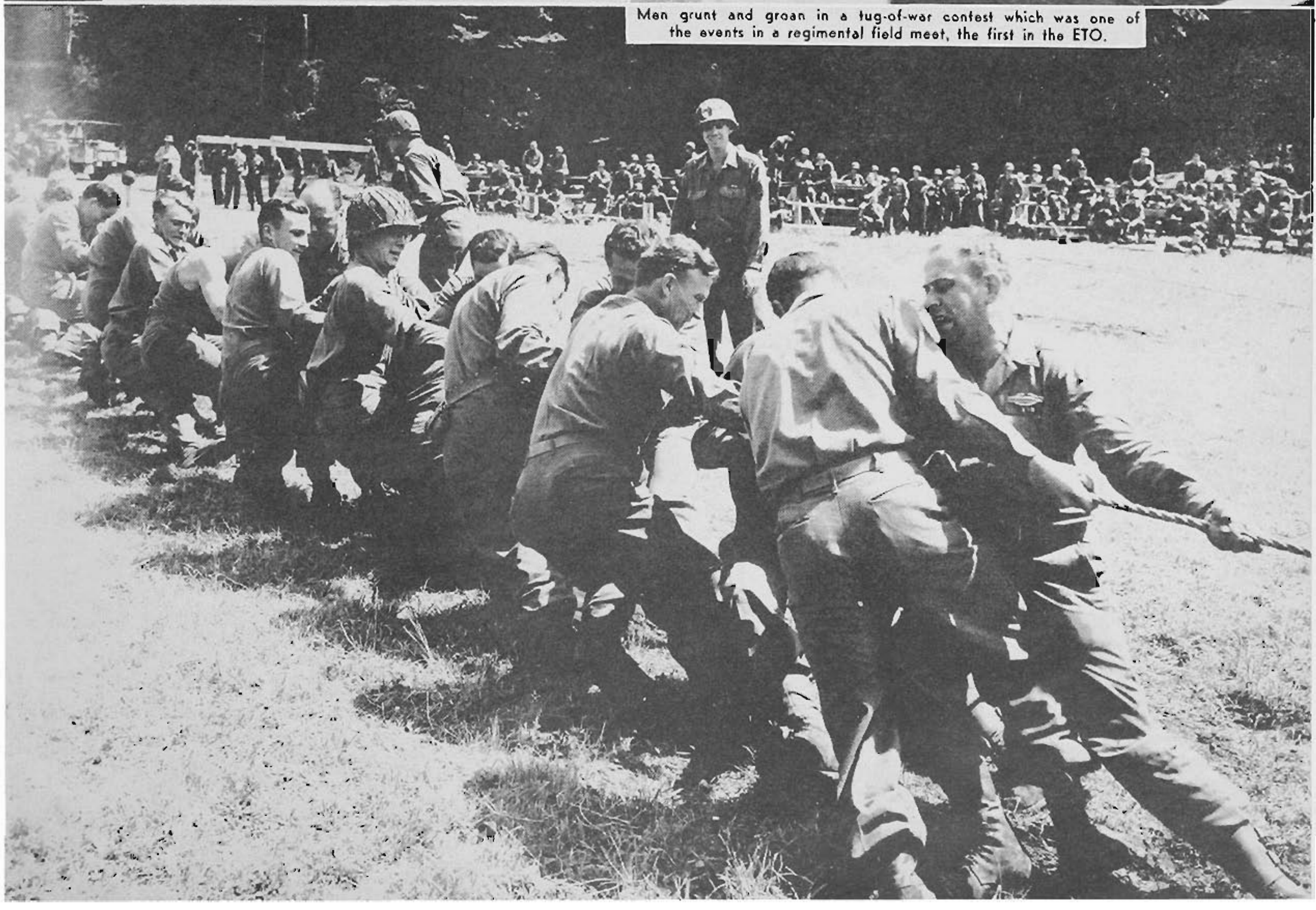


The 222d Infantry holds memorial services for men of the regiment killed in combat. Almost every man in the unit attended.



Time now for recreation. Each unit organized boxing tournaments and fighting was continued with gloves instead of rifles.

Men grunt and groan in a tug-of-war contest which was one of the events in a regimental field meet, the first in the ETO.



gram. Occupational duties greatly hampered the program and made it necessary for training to be repeated several times in order that all men would receive instruction.

Early in July orders were received to move the Division to the vicinity of Salzburg, Austria, as the French were to take over the occupation of the entire Tyrol. Rainbowmen were sorry to leave this area. The country itself was beautiful, the towns and villages had not been destroyed by bombing and there was enough room for comfortable living for all men of the Division.

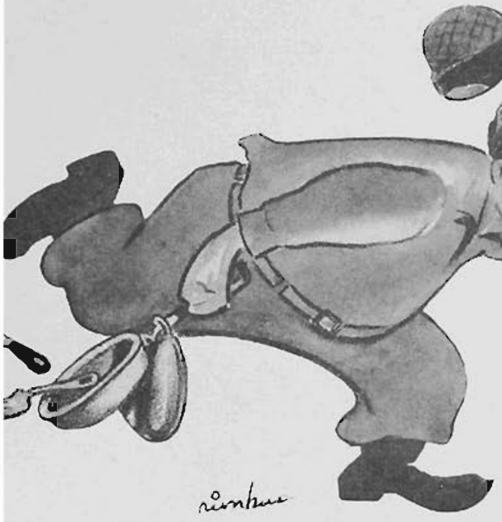
The new Division area was in and immediately surrounding the city of Salzburg, already crowded with troops, displaced persons and refugees. Some



Underwear or GI pants, sox or boots are correct ring attire.



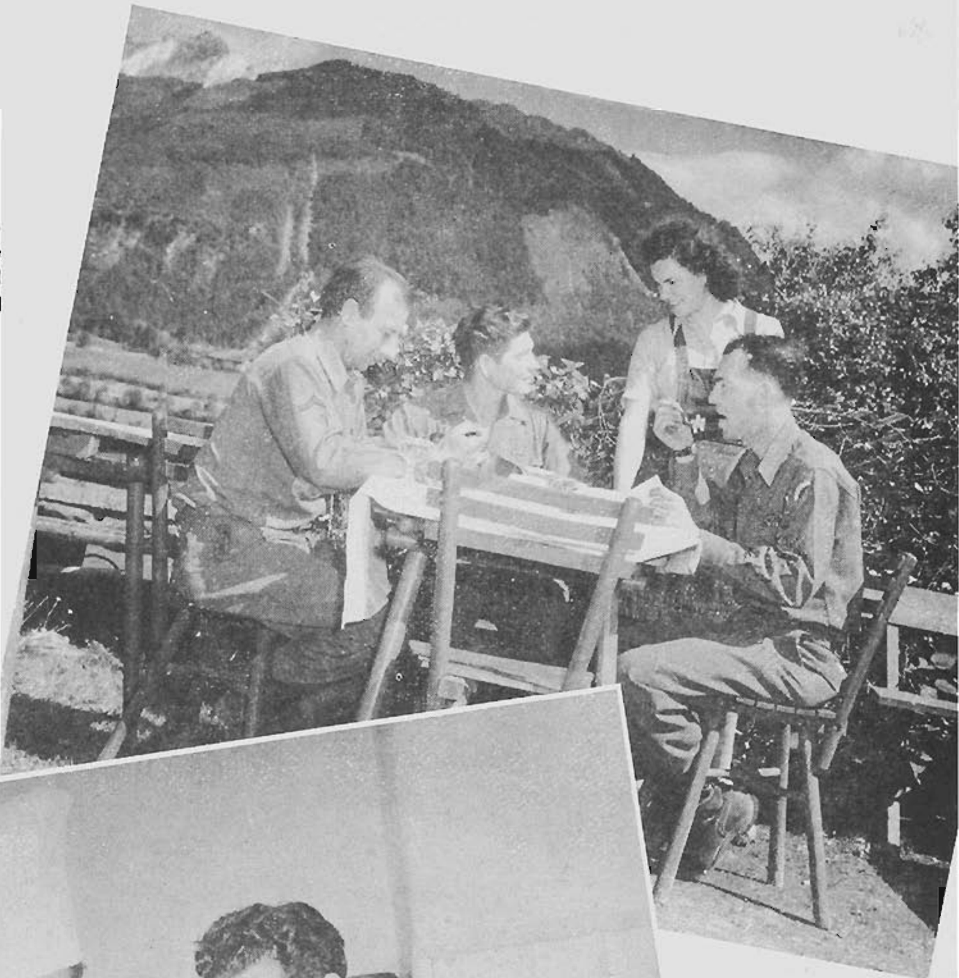
Almost every organization has its private swimming spot where the water is cool and clear. Underwear serves as swimming trunks.



men were going to have to sleep in tents until the 101st Airborne Division, scheduled for redeployment, could be moved from its occupational zone.

The Rainbow began its move to the vicinity of Salzburg on July 8 and its area in the Tyrol was formally turned over to the 27th Regiment of the French 4th Moroccan Mountain Division in a colorful ceremony before the Division Command Post in the Grand Hotel at Kitzbuhel at noon on July 10.

Food is now something cooked in a kitchen instead of taken from a K ration box. The men at the right are enjoying their meal and a little personal service at the 122d Medical Battalion rest center.



This juicy steak will not only satisfy some GI appetite, but also pleases the mess personnel who are preparing it.

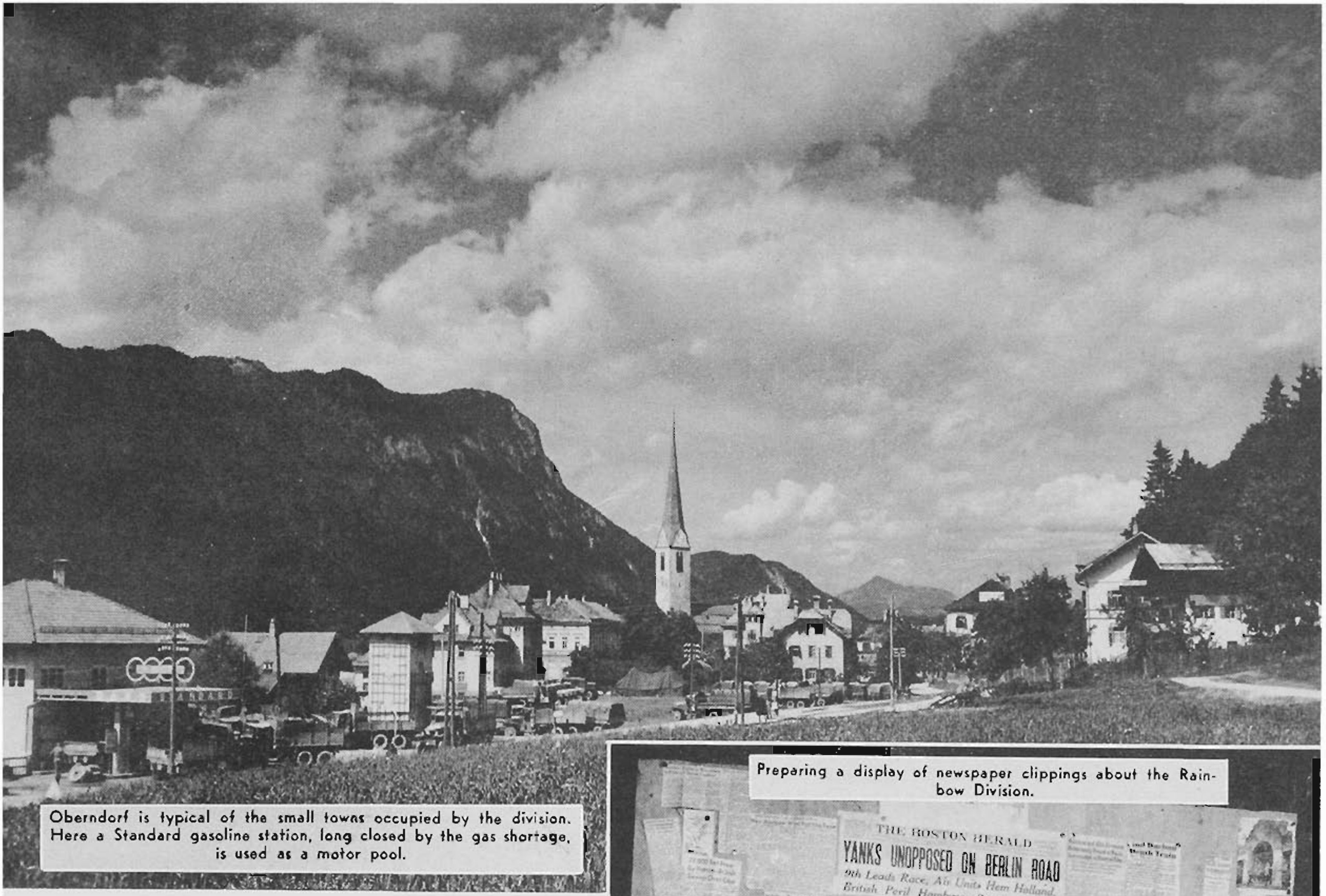




Nazi flag captured in Schweinfurt is presented to the 42d Bomb Wing, which attacked that city the day before the Rainbow entered.

Distance between units is so great that liaison planes fly messages about the division. This plane has landed on the autobahn.





Oberndorf is typical of the small towns occupied by the division. Here a Standard gasoline station, long closed by the gas shortage, is used as a motor pool.



Preparing a display of newspaper clippings about the Rainbow Division.

Four days later the Rainbow celebrated the second anniversary of its reactivation with a ceremony held in Salzburg's Residence Platz at which the First Battalion of the 242nd Infantry Regiment was presented with a Unit Citation for its heroic defense of Hatten. Two hundred fifty men, all that remained with the Rainbow who fought at Hatten, received their ribbons at the ceremony and paraded with one battalion from each unit of the Division before Lieutenant General Geoffrey Keyes, commander of II Corps.

Again the Division instituted a training program to complete the required eight weeks' redeployment training prescribed by Third Army although limited space made training difficult.

On August 2 the 101st Airborne Division moved from Land Salzburg and the Rainbow expanded to take over its area which was now entirely under the command of General Collins, who as the senior tactical commander had been responsible for the military government of the Land since the Division moved to Salzburg.



The Tyrol is turned over to the French and the American flag is lowered in a ceremony held before the division CP in Kitzbuhel.

French and American soldiers stand at attention during the ceremony.



And present arms during lowering of the National Colors





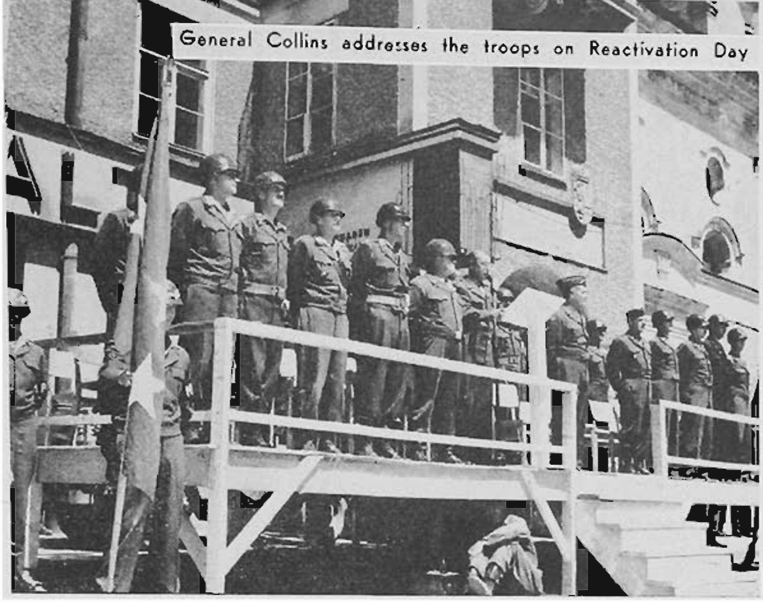
With the State Flags forming a backdrop, the Tri-Color of France is raised before Grand Hotel and the Rainbow moves to Salzburg.

Four days later the Rainbow began the tremendous job of supervising the cutting of 225,000 round meters of wood for winter fuel. Thousands of prisoners of war were employed in this huge task. Lumber camps were established and enclosures for the prisoners built near them. This was a job which was to continue throughout the summer and fall.

On August 9, Company K of the 222nd Infantry Regiment moved to Vienna serve as honor company for General Mark W. Clark at a ceremony formally marking the formation of the military gov-


Colors and State Flags march past the Salzburg Cathedral


The second anniversary of the Rainbow, celebrated in Salzburg. Men of the 1st Battalion, 242d Infantry, are in the foreground.



General Collins addresses the troops on Reactivation Day



For heroism at Hatten, Sgt. Vito Bertoldo received the CMH



The heroes of Hatten, honored at the anniversary ceremony, are decorated by Lieut. Gen. Geoffrey Keyes, of II Corps, and Gen. Collins.

National Colors and the Rainbow Flag pass the reviewing stand during the ceremony. The day was very nearly as hot as July 14, 1943.

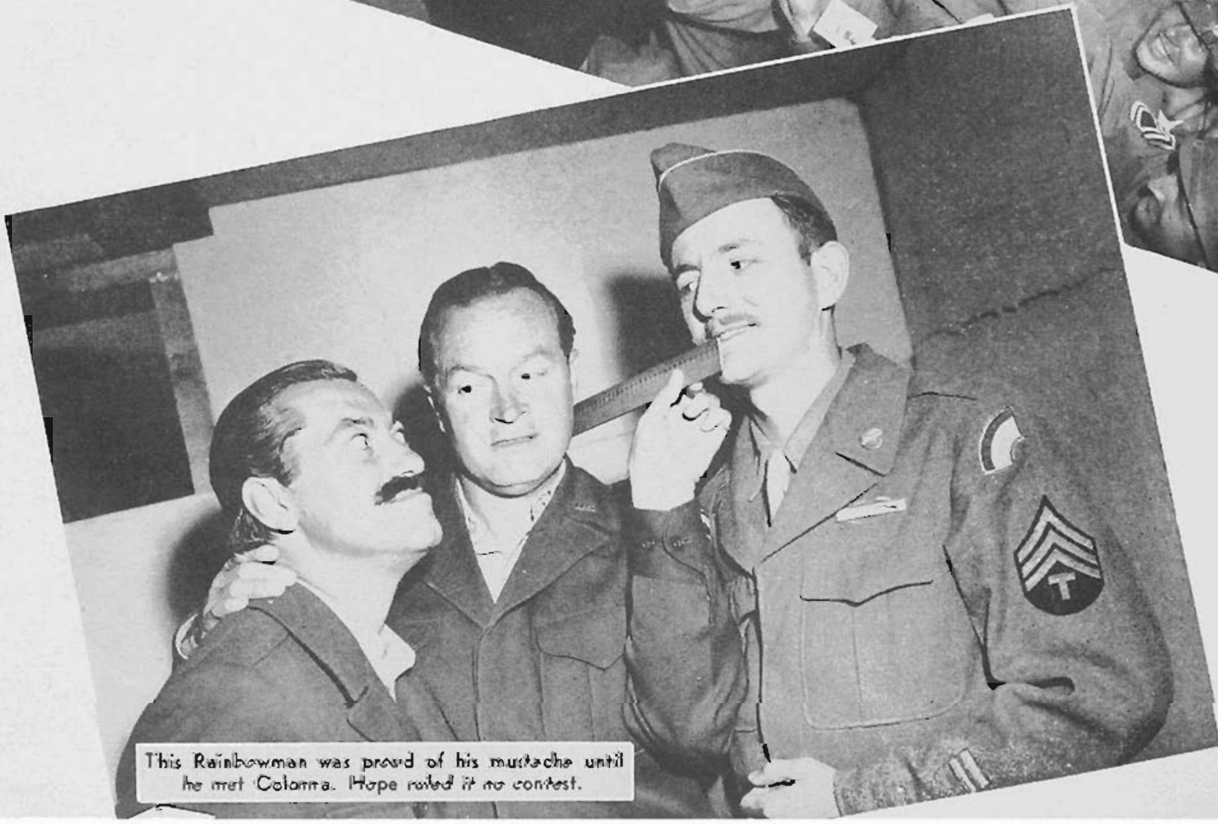




This attention by girls of the Diamond Horseshoe was not a regular feature of the SSO.



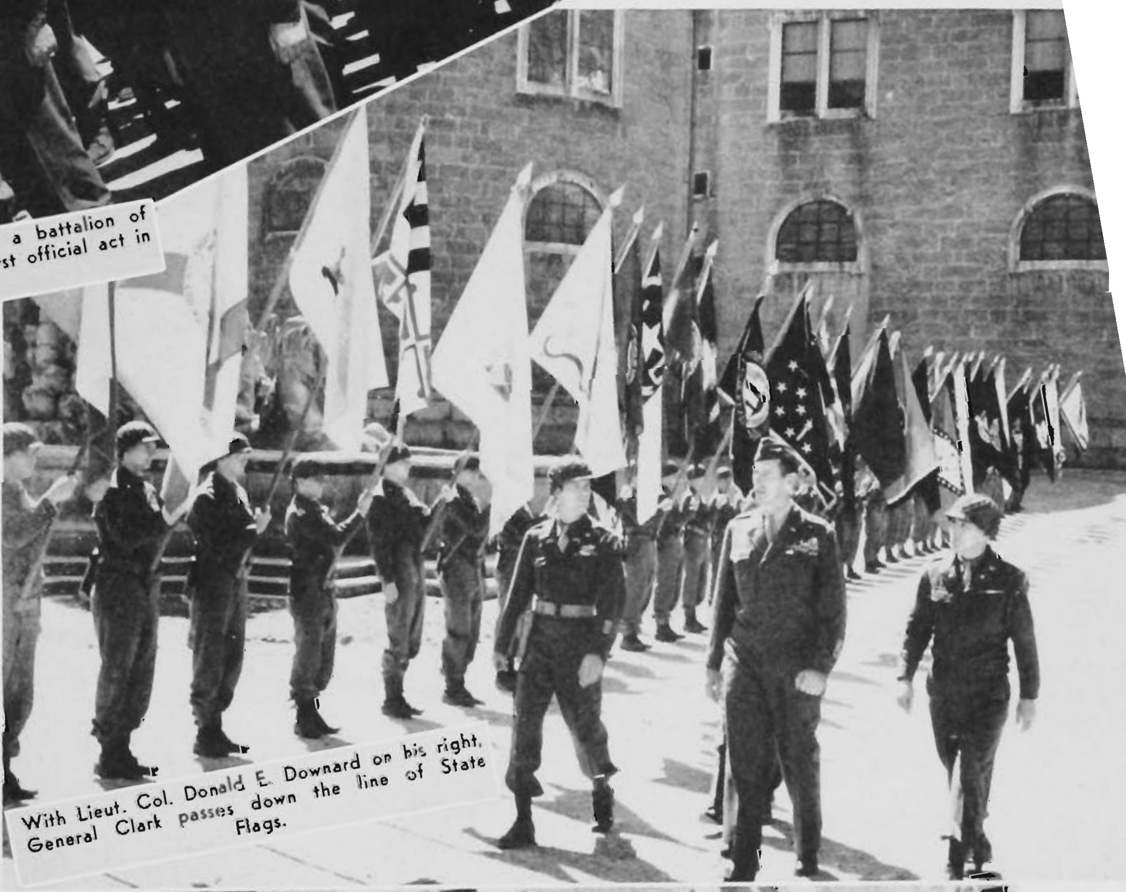
Bob Hope autographs francs, marks and shillings after an outdoor show in Salzburg.



This Rainbowman was proud of his mustache until he met Colonna. Hope ruled it no contest.



General Mark W. Clark inspects a battalion of Rainbowmen in Salzburg as his first official act in Austria.



With Lieut. Col. Donald E. Downard on his right, General Clark passes down the line of State Flags.



Gen. Clark, Lieut. Col. Roy N. Walker, and Gen. [illegible] salute in Gen. Clark's first ceremony in Austria.



Russian, English, French and American troops parade in Vienna before the commanders of the four Allied occupation zones in Austria. Russian soldiers are in the right foreground, the British are behind them and Company K, 222d Infantry, marching at the extreme right.



ernment of Austria by United States, Britain, Russia and France. These men were the first American combat soldiers to enter the famous capital and with them went the members of the 42nd Division Band. For two weeks they practiced for the ceremony, in which Russian. British and French troops also participated.

Alerted to move to Vienna and garrison the city were units of the 222nd Infantry. On August 27 the remainder of the Third Battalion joined Company K there and on September 2 the headquarters of the Regiment and the First Battalion and Service Company moved to the city.

Now the war against Japan was over and it became apparent that the Rainbow was to be assigned as a permanent part of the occupation force in Austria. Rainbowmen felt the same as did everyone else at the end of the war. There was a feeling of relief and joy and a desire to get home just as soon as possible. Unlike the people in the United States, there was little celebrating by the men of the Division.

"Of course I'm glad the fighting's over and I'm glad that we won't have to go to the Pacific, but I'll save the celebrating until the time when I get home," said one man.

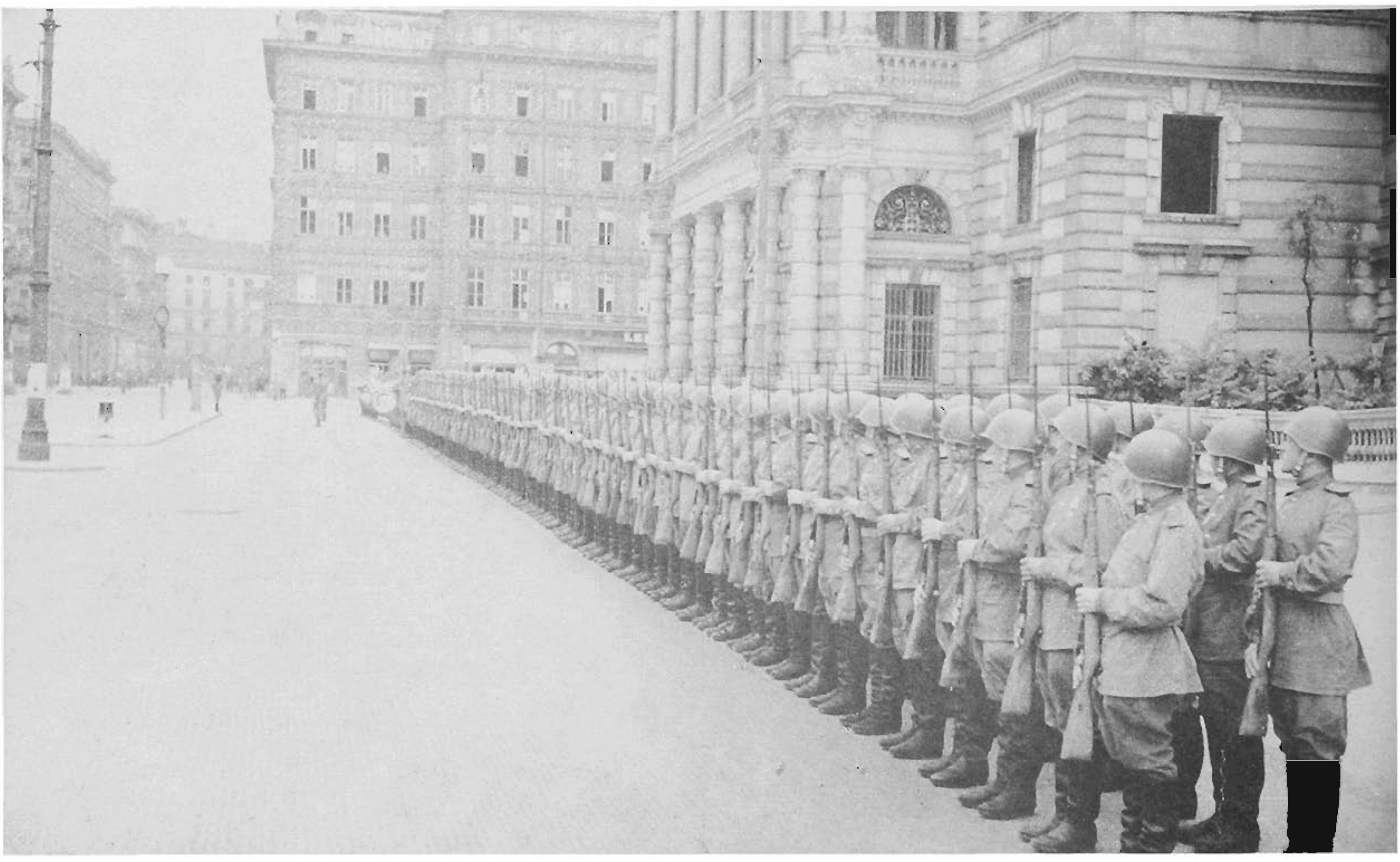
That was the way most Rainbowmen felt.

Now the emphasis was placed on the army education program. Just prior to the end of the war the Division had been preparing for the opening of a Rainbow Leaders' School at Zell Am Zee where officers and non-commissioned officers would be trained in Japanese tactics, troop leading procedure and other military subjects. The need for that was over and in its place it was decided to open a university, a place where college subjects would be taught to 300 to 400 men selected from among the 8,000 high school graduates in the Division.



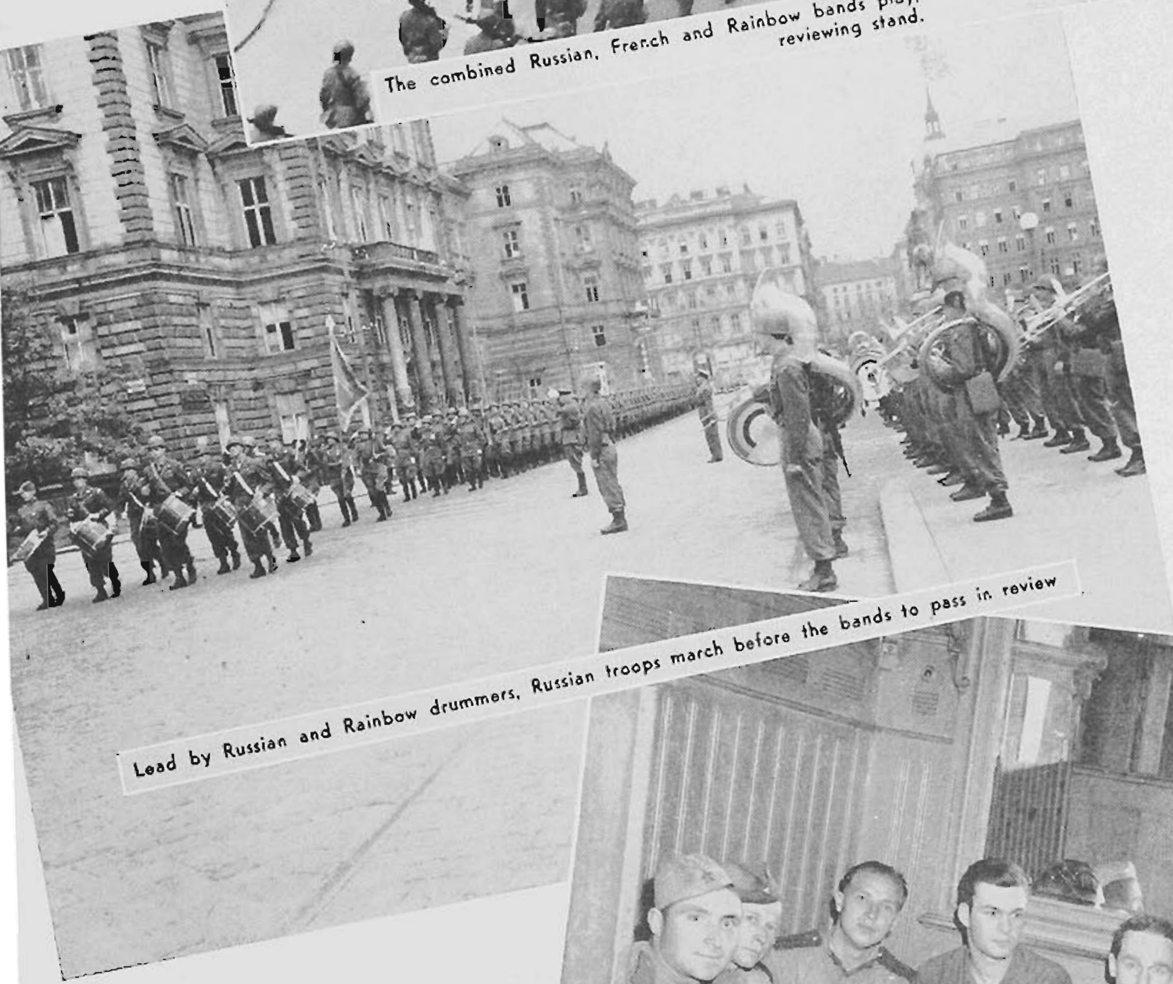
Soldiers of the four great Allied nations exchange cigarettes during a 10-minute break in rehearsing for the historic Vienna ceremony.

Russian soldiers present arms during the ceremony. Note the drum of the Rainbow Division Band.





The combined Russian, French and Rainbow bands play, the men of Company K, 222d, pass the reviewing stand.



Lead by Russian and Rainbow drummers, Russian troops march before the bands to pass in review



Men of a *Russian* artillery unit entertain Rainbowmen in their mess hall in Vienna



Work was begun immediately in assembling a faculty from among the officers and men of the Division. Text books were collected from army warehouses. Equipment was secured from Austrian and German universities, from stocks of captured enemy material, from Nazi laboratories and factories.

On September 14, only 12 days after the formal surrender of Japan, the first class of 300 students reported to the school and began a two-month course which would give them the equivalent of one semester's study in college. The credits that they earned would be recognized by American universities and colleges. There were science, liberal arts and technical subjects available and courses ranged from French and German to business law and sociology and chemistry and electronics.

Also as a part of the education program men were sent to army university centers and units began schools. Here again, however, the number of occupational duties, which ranged from feeding displaced persons to guarding art treasures and food supplies and military installations hampered the school program. Nevertheless, some units started





An old woman and young child rummage through a scrap pile in front of the bomb-scarred Votive Church, a famous Viennese landmark.



These two hotels on the lake shore are the main buildings of Rainbow U



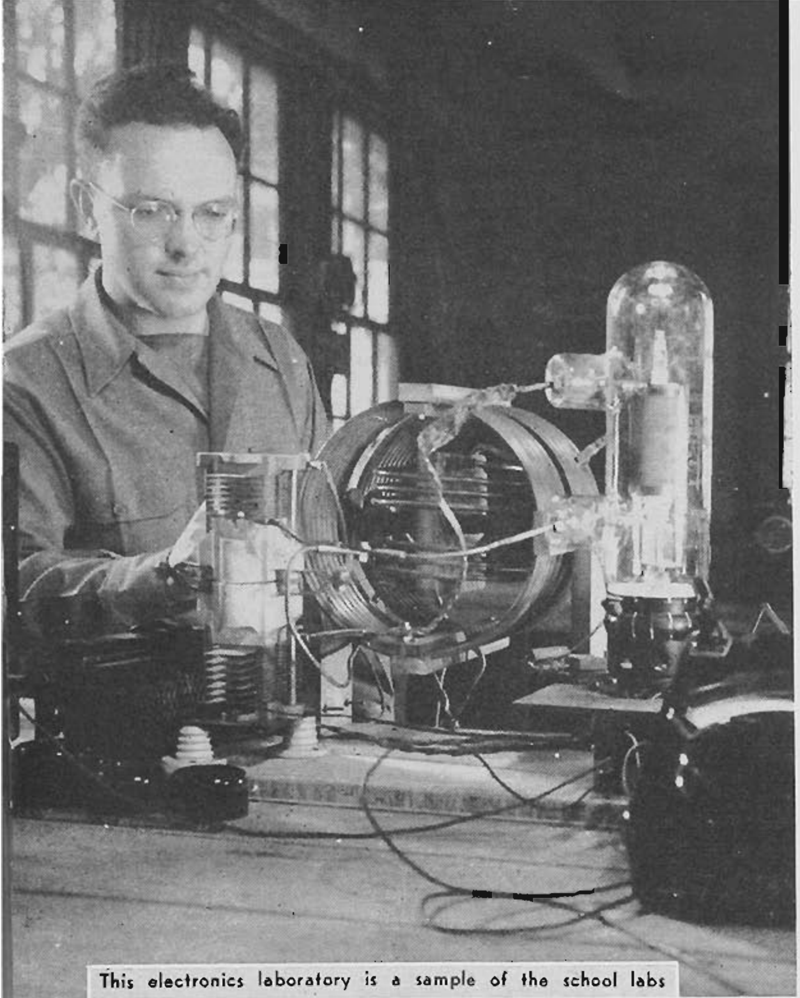
The principal building of Rainbow University, opened in Zell am See only 12 days after the signing of the formal Japanese surrender.

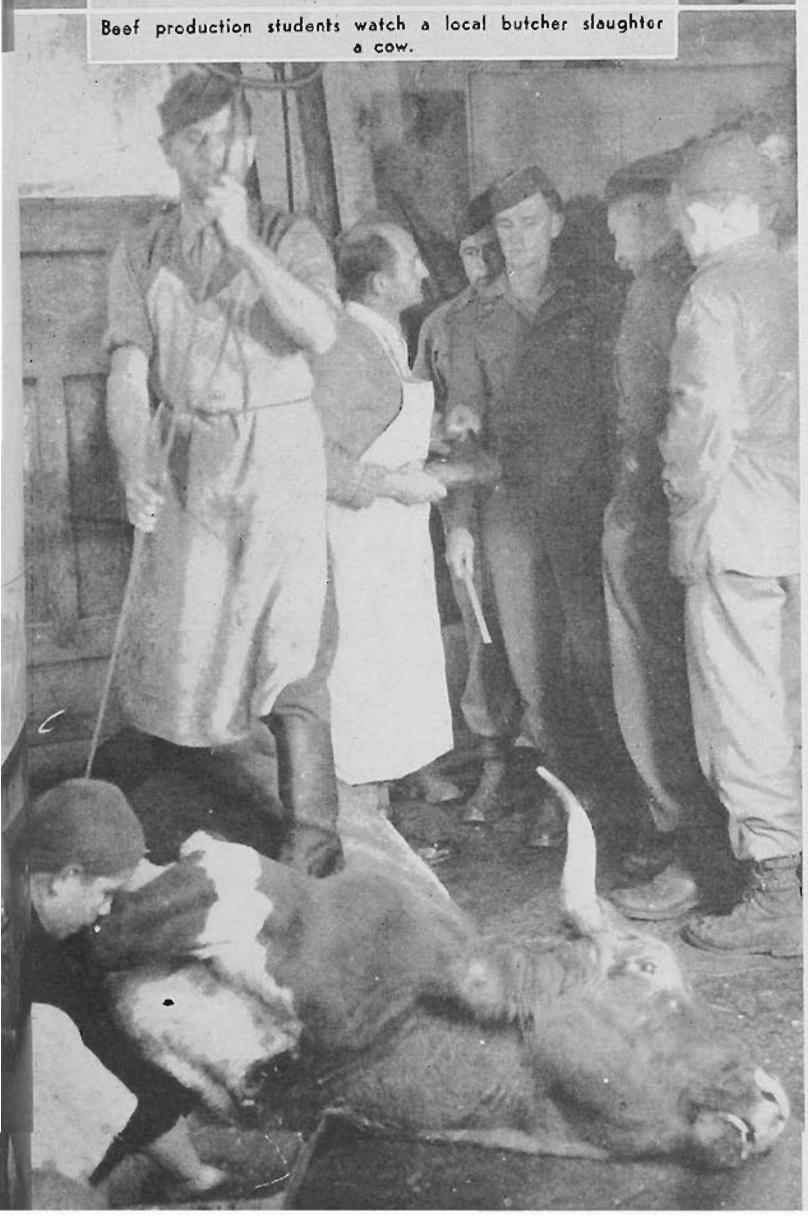
schools, but before many courses were completed the first men began leaving the Division for home.

The point system and the number of points were two of the principal topics of conversation in September and of them the men were never to tire. In September men began leaving the Division for home and the Rainbow was reinforced in October by approximately 5,000 low point men from the 66th Infantry Division.

These men too were to become Rainbow soldiers and although proud of their old organization they were to become proud of their new.

"We want you to feel that you are just as much


This electronics laboratory is a sample of the school labs


Beef production students watch a local butcher slaughter a cow.



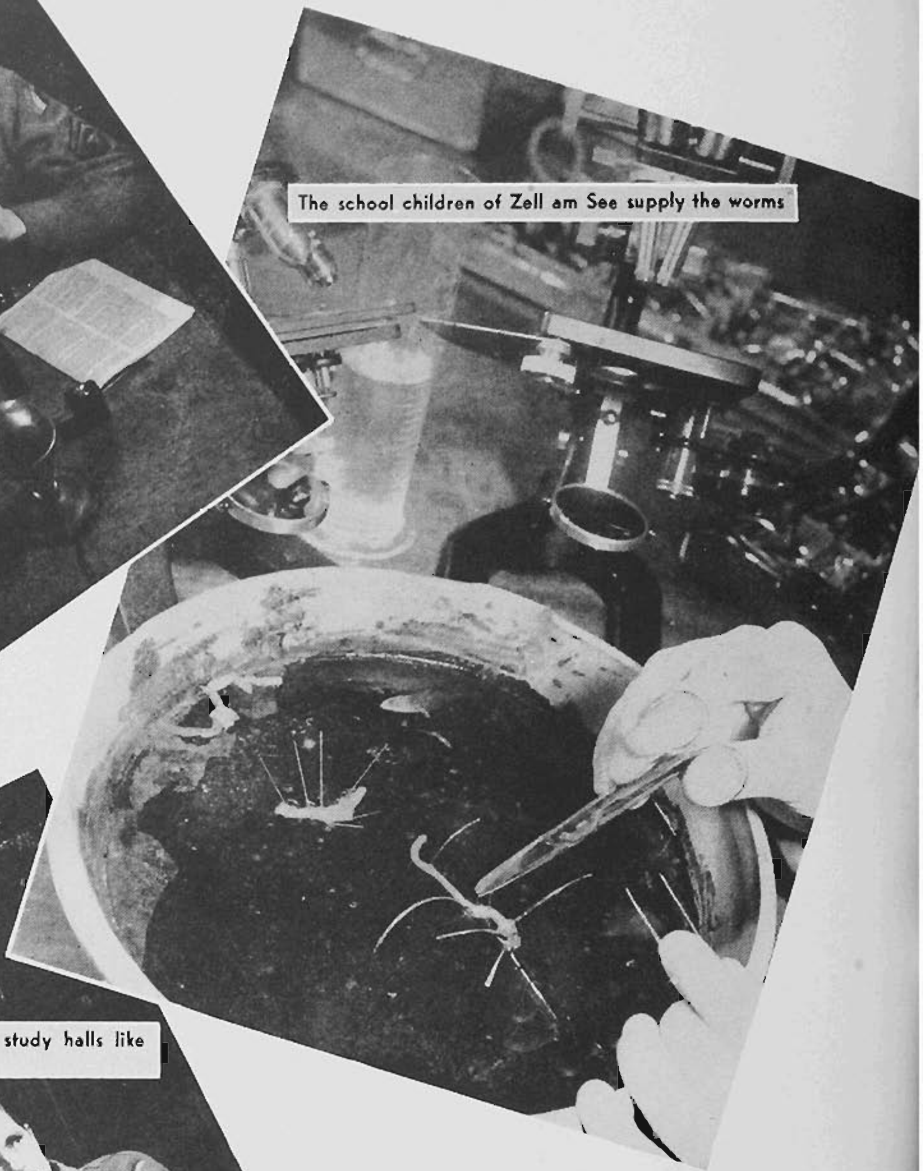
A group of students on the way to a Red Cross club in Zell.



Captured enemy material is used in the excellent electronics lab.



These microscopes were borrowed from universities at Graz and Vienna.



The school children of Zell am See supply the worms



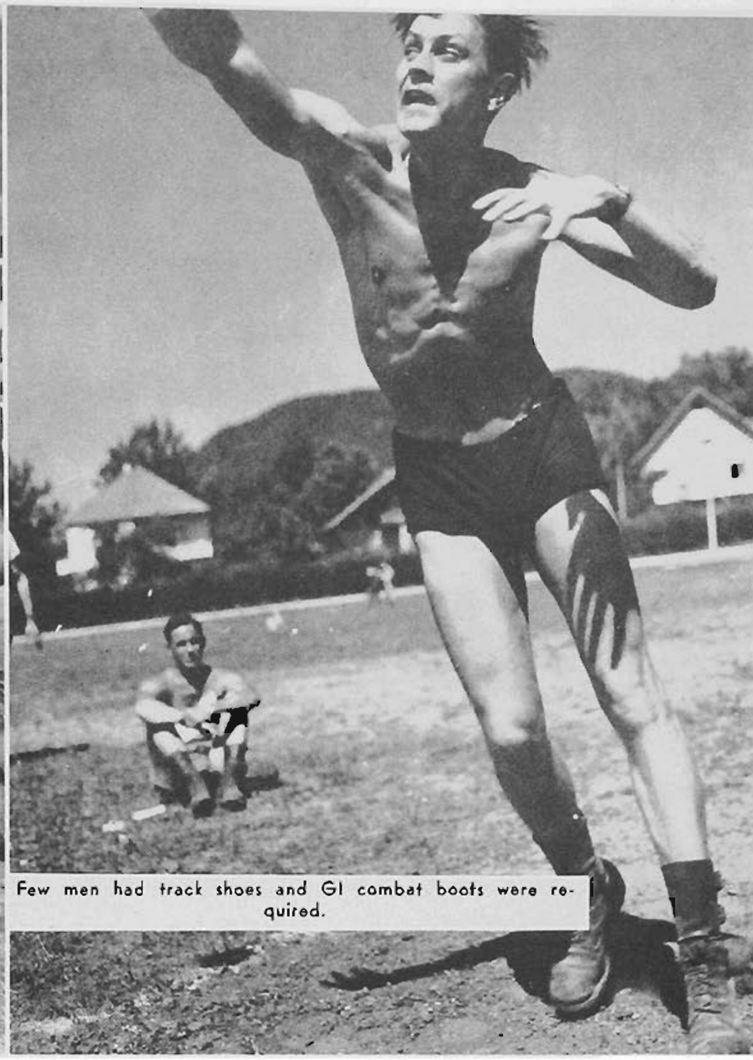
Each student attends three classes and two study halls like this a day.



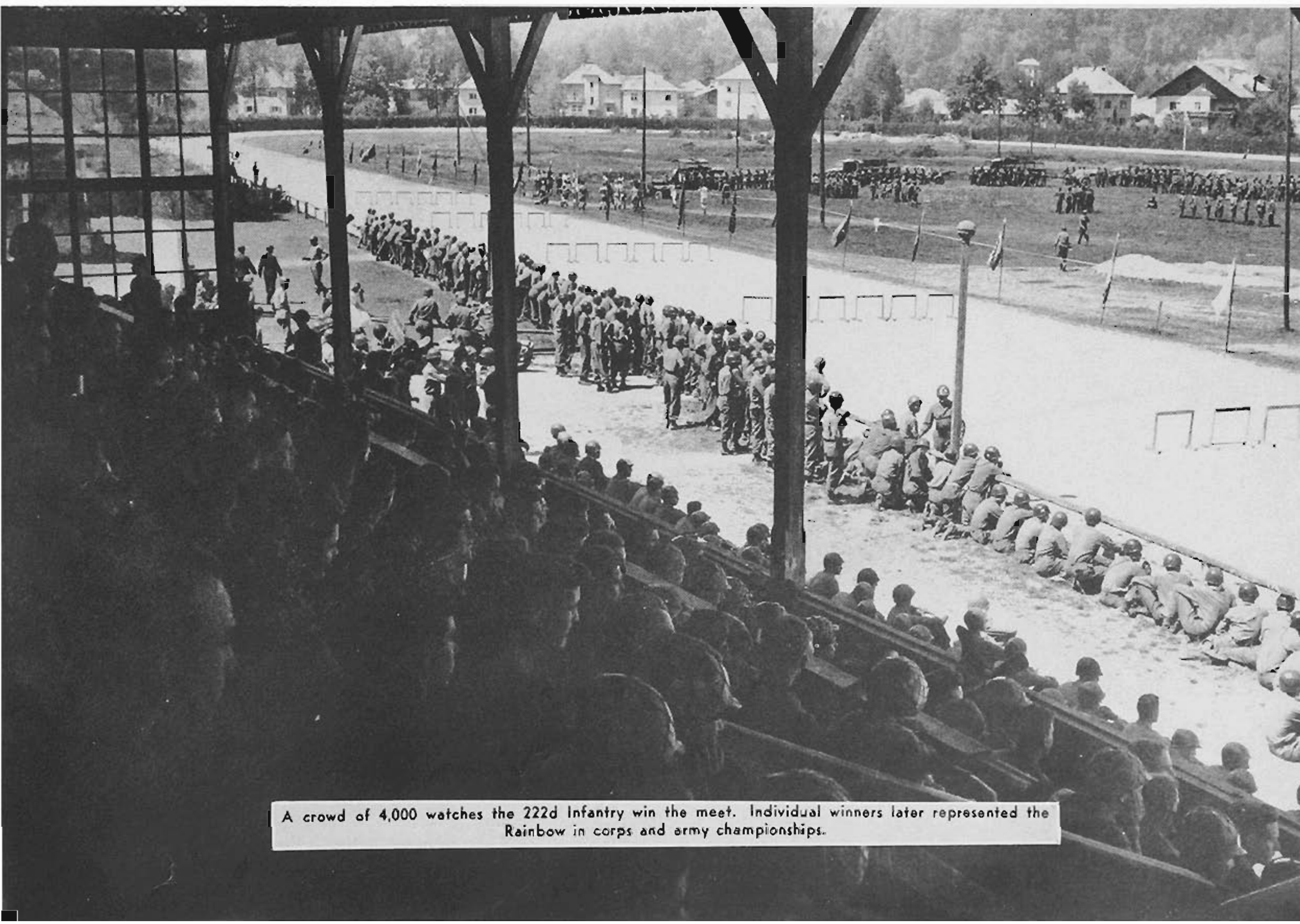
Although an officer teaches the French class, most professors are enlisted men.



Members of unit track teams participate in a Division field meet in Salzburg.



Few men had track shoes and GI combat boots were required.



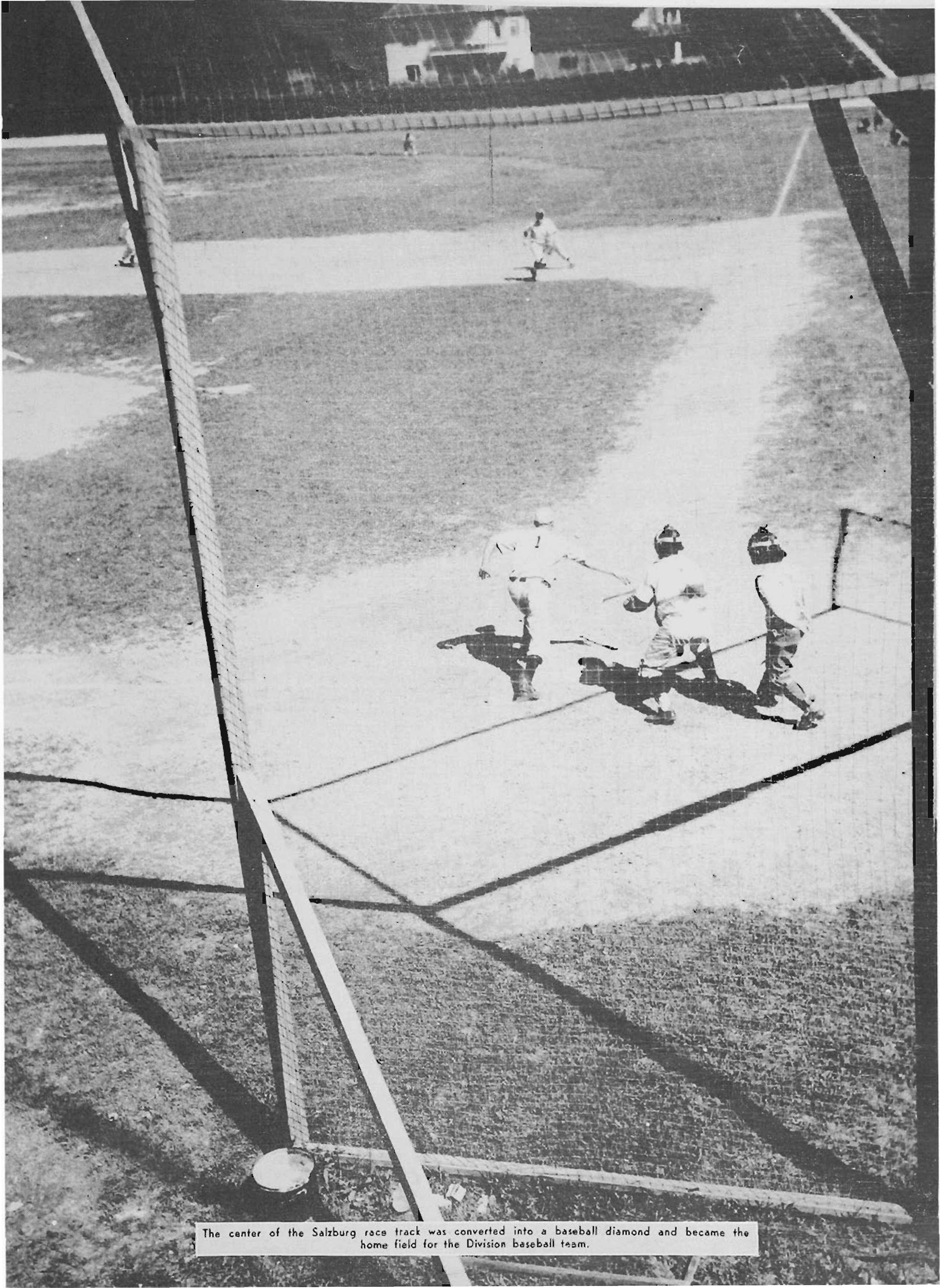
A crowd of 4,000 watches the 222d Infantry win the meet. Individual winners later represented the Rainbow in corps and army championships.



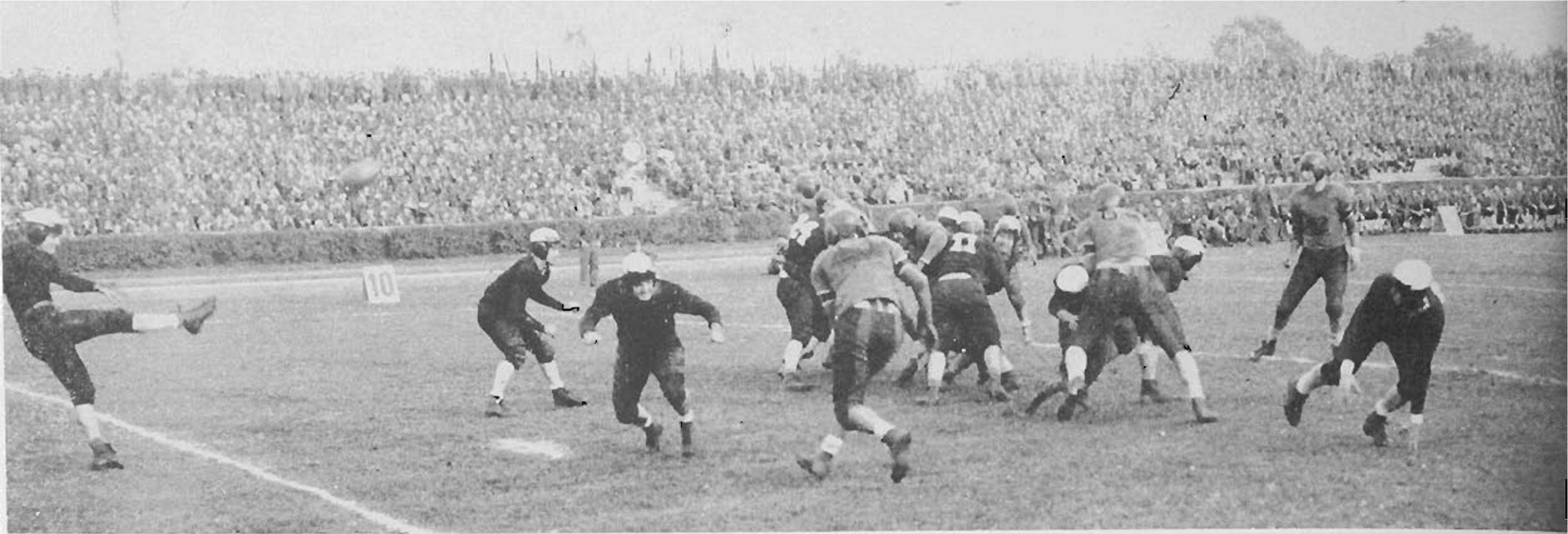
An unusual picture taken at the start of the 220-yard, low-hurdle race in which every man is in the air and every foot off the ground.

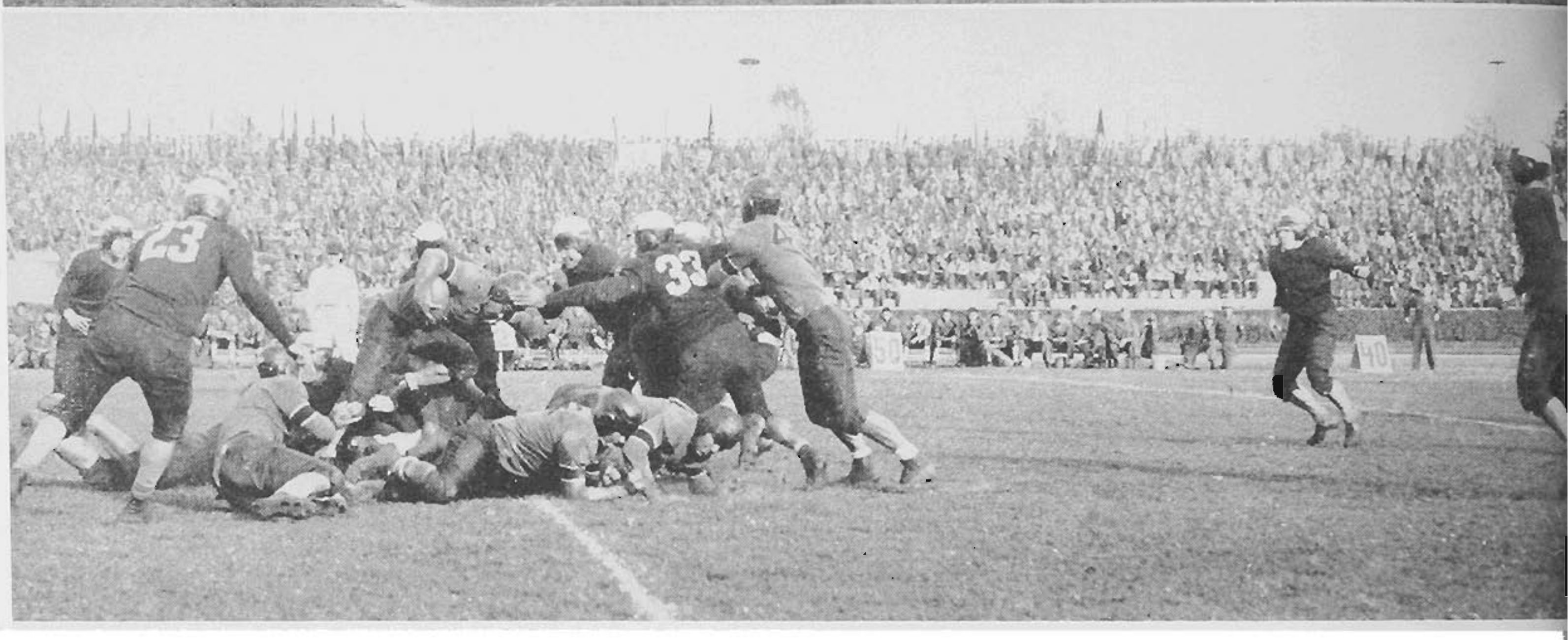
The baton is passed on the first leg of the relay race. Track suits range from underwear to shorts and shirts made from parachute silk.





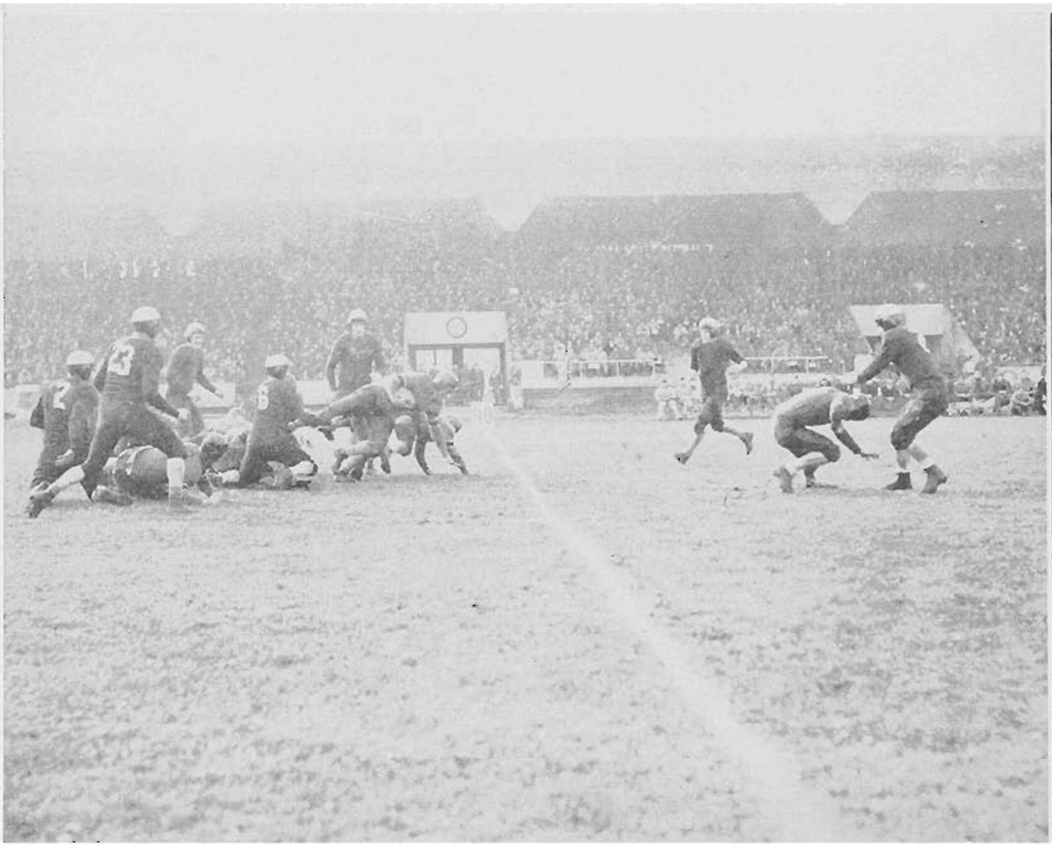
The center of the Salzburg race track was converted into a baseball diamond and became the home field for the Division baseball team.

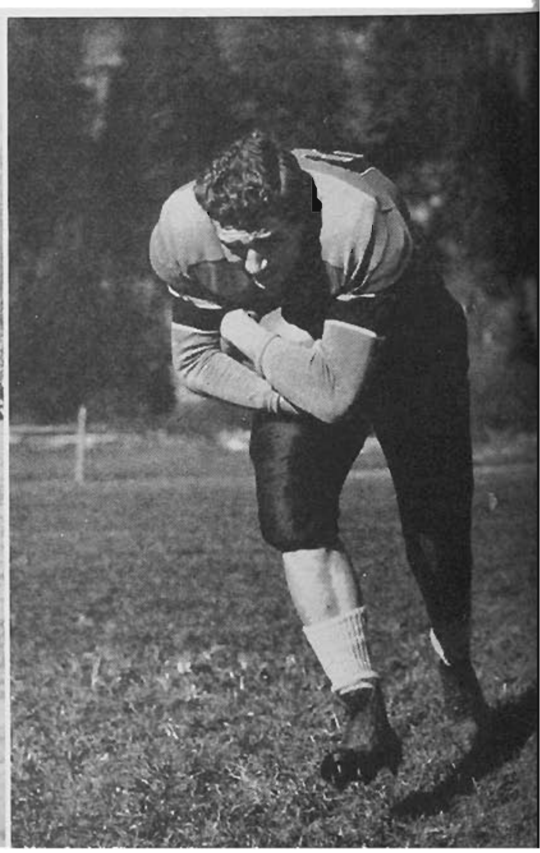




Top: The Division football team, known as the Rainbow Ramblers, was one of the best in Europe. Here a 1st Division man kicks out of danger.
Center: A Rainbow back plunges for a short gain against the heavy Red One line in this game before 25,000 spectators in Soldier Field at Nurnberg.

Lower left: The Rainbow makes another short gain. It lost, but outplayed the 1st. Lower right: This run is for the cameraman at Bad Gastein.







a part of this Division as any man in it," said General Collins in a talk to some of the new arrivals. "We who have been with the Division through combat are proud of its fighting history, but we know that we still have an important job to do.

"The Rainbow played an important part in winning the war and it has also been selected to play an important job in winning the peace. We will be proud of our accomplishments in that job too."

Left: Every unit had a club. This of the 222d in Vienna is one of the most elaborate.

Bottom: Division Headquarters Company had this enlisted men's club, complete with floor show in a former cafe in the center of Salzburg.



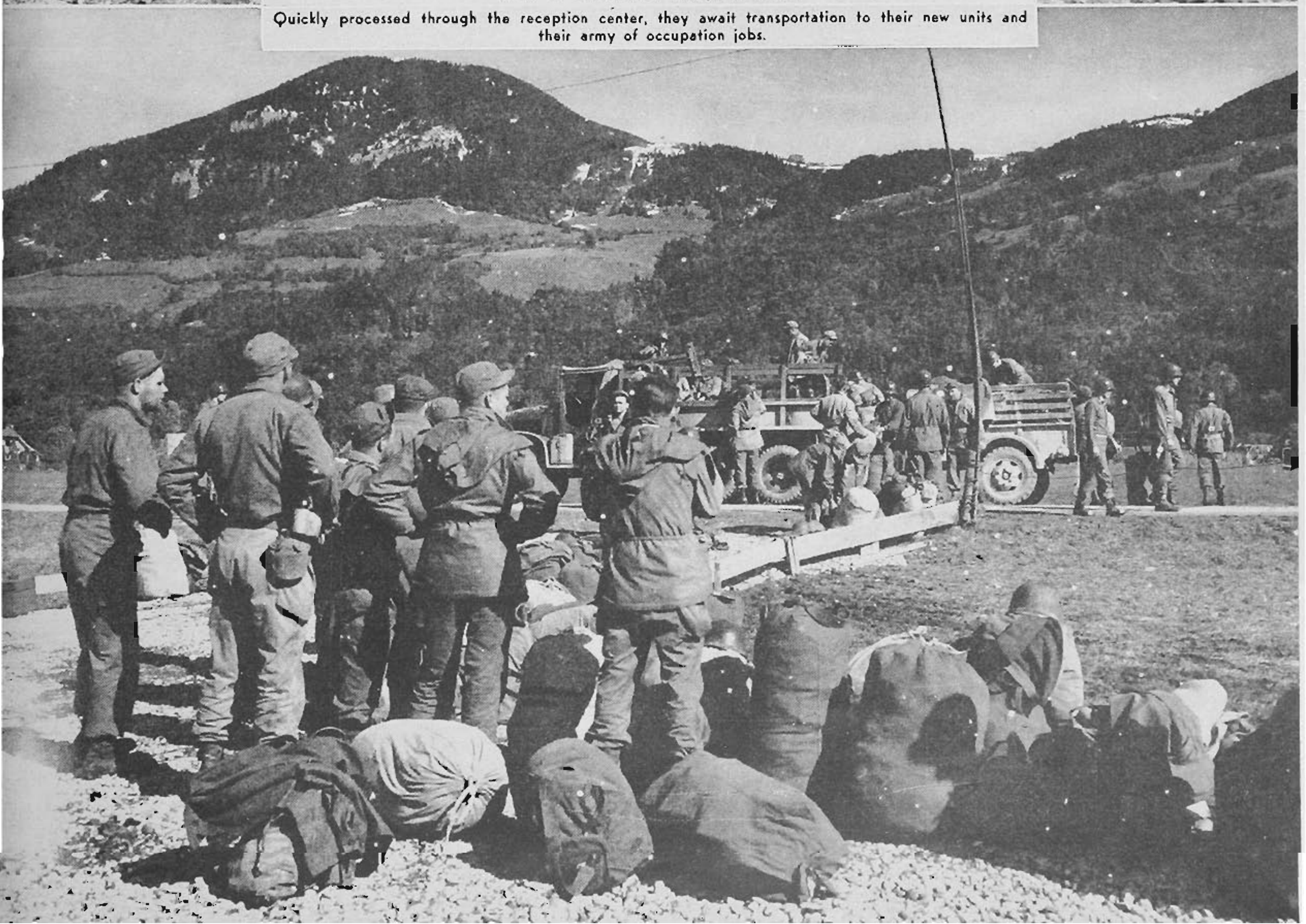


The famed Festpeilhaus in Salzburg was the scene of regular dances. This party was given by units of the 222d for a WAC company.



Taking the places of high-point men being sent home, these men from the 66th Infantry Division arrive at the Rainbow Reception Center.

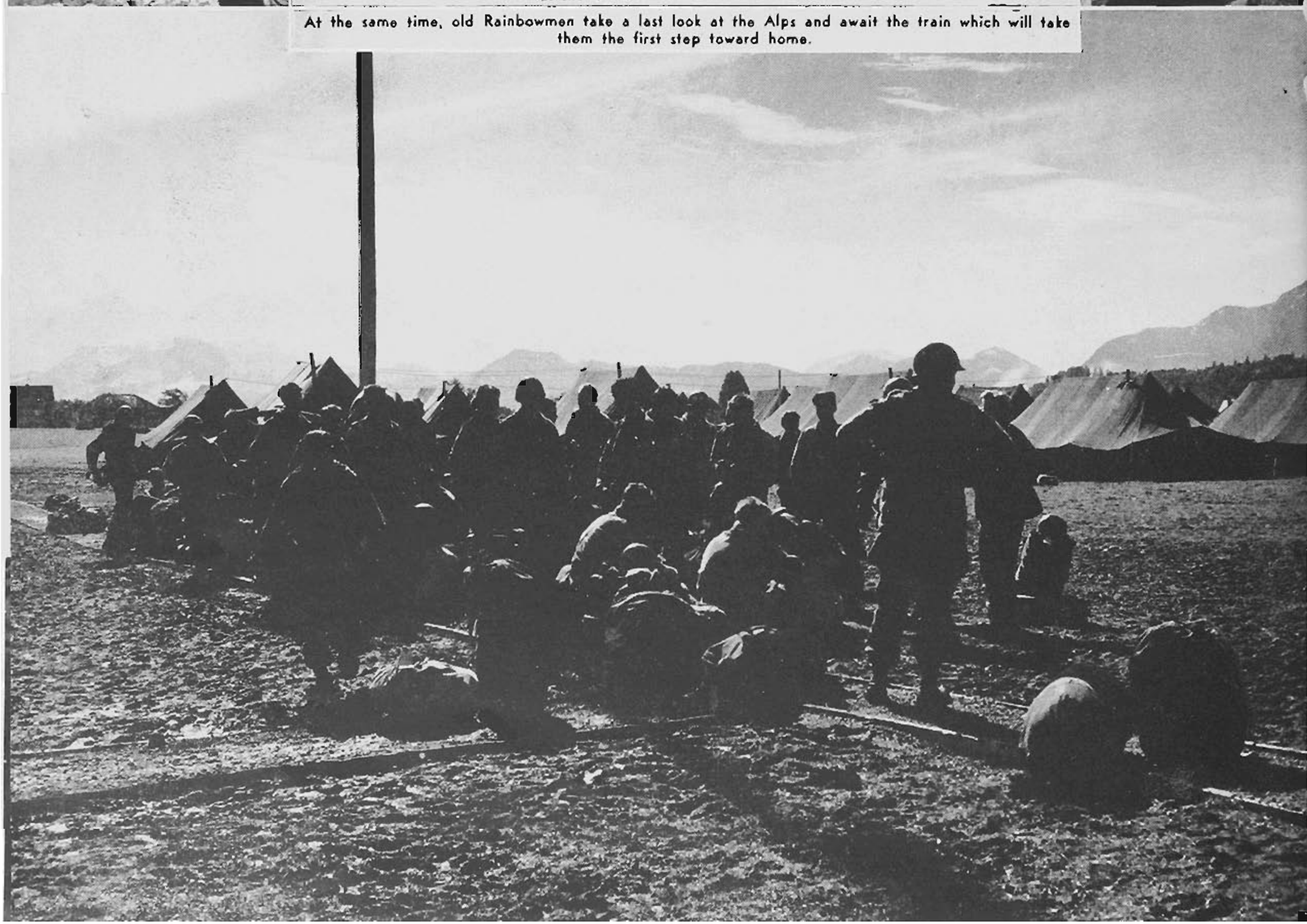
Quickly processed through the reception center, they await transportation to their new units and their army of occupation jobs.





Another group, tired and dirty after the long ride from Marseilles in 40 and 8 boxcars, arrives at the Division and unloads the train.

At the same time, old Rainbowmen take a last look at the Alps and await the train which will take them the first step toward home.



UNITS OF THE RAINBOW

★

222d Infantry Regiment

232d Infantry Regiment

242d Infantry Regiment

Headquarters 42d Division Artillery

232d Field Artillery Battalion

392d Field Artillery Battalion

402d Field Artillery Battalion

542d Field Artillery Battalion

142d Engineer (Combat) Battalion

122d Medical Battalion

42d Reconnaissance Troop

132d Signal Company

742d Ordnance Company

42d Quartermaster Company

42d Military Police Platoon

Division Headquarters and Headquarters Company

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